

Please remember to greet every child before you start this lesson plan, make them feel comfortable, heard, and seen since they might be learning something new. It'll make your job easier!

Lesson 1: Dribbling

DURATION: 45-60 minutes

Warm Up – 10 minutes

- Dynamic stretch - butt kicks, high knees, shuffles, toe touches, and etc. (set up cones about 10 – 15 yards apart)
- Foot skills – toe taps, foundations, foundations with roll (have kids stand in front of their cone to perform skill)

Skill Builder **JRs/CORE/MIDDLE: Introduction to Dribbling (page 92) – 15 - 20 minutes**

- Using different parts of the foot: inside, outside, laces, and sole
- Demonstrates the four different styles to the kids. Then have the kids dribble back and forth between cones (cones should be about 10 – 15 yards apart same set up used for warm-ups)

Break - 5 minutes

Related Game **JRs/CORE: Body Parts (page 83) – 15 - 20 minutes**

- All the kids are inside of a 25 x 30-yard grid. Each kid has a ball.
- Objective – Kids dribble the ball with control and stay inside the grid. Reinforce the idea to dribble with head up and find space (Coach Tip; remind kids to social distance on the field.) Coach will then call out a body part, the kids will then stop the ball with that body part; i.e. left foot. If a kid leaves the grid or is last to stop the ball he/she must do toe taps to get back in the game.

Related Game **MIDDLE: Dribbling Circle (page 99) - 15-20 minutes**

- Set up cones to form a circle, and split everyone into 2 groups.
- Group on the inside dribbles using each part of both feet while not running into each other. The group on the outside practices foot skills (ie toe taps, foundations, roll overs). Switch groups after each minute or so.

Cool Down, Debrief, and Health Tip – 5-10 minutes

- Static stretch - leg stretches (hamstrings, quads, hips, etc.) and arm stretches (across chest, behind head, etc.). As the kids stretch, ask them some questions about the session.
 - **Possible questions:** What are the parts of the foot we use to dribble with? Why is it important to keep our heads up?
- **Health Tip:** *Playing soccer and other sports is great exercise! Regular Exercise helps us to strengthen our muscles and bones.*

Lesson 2: Passing

DURATION: 45-60 minutes

Warm Up – 10 minutes

- Dynamic stretch - butt kicks, high knees, shuffles, toe touches, and etc. (set up cones about 10 – 15 yards apart)
- Foot skills – toe taps, foundations, foundations with roll (have kids stand in front of their cone to perform skill)

Skill Builder **JRs/CORE/MIDDLE: Introduction to Passing (page 119) – 15 - 20 minutes**

- Set up two cones about 5 to 6 yards apart. Create as many cone set ups as pairs of kids. If you have odd numbers, create a triangle.
- Each group should have one ball.
- Demonstrate passing the ball with the inside of the foot. The inside of the kicking foot, hips, and plant foot should all be pointed where you want the pass to go.
- Have the players continue passing the ball back and forth. Step in and make corrections after players have a chance to try a few times.

Break - 5 minutes

Related Game **JRs/CORE/MIDDLE: Thread the Needle (page 120) – 15 - 20 minutes**

- Have the team pair up and give each pair one ball.
- Place mini-goals (or cones five feet apart) randomly around a 30x30-yard grid, creating at least one mini goal per each pair of players.
- On “GO,” each pair attempts to make as many passes as they can through the mini-goal in one minute. Pairs then report the number to you.
- In the second round, ask every pair to try and improve on their original number; this focuses on improvement and allows all skill levels to find success!
- Communication and teamwork will help facilitate improvement.

Cool Down, Debrief, and Health Tip – 5-10 minutes

- Static stretch - leg stretches (hamstrings, quads, hips, etc.) and arm stretches (across chest, behind head, etc.). As the kids stretch, ask them some questions about the session.
 - Possible questions: What part of our foot do we use to pass? Can someone tell or show me proper passing technique?
- **Health Tip:** *Drinking pop (soda) and other caffeinated beverages lead to dehydration.*

Lesson 3: Dribbling & Passing

DURATION: 45-60 minutes

Warm Up – 10 minutes

- Dynamic stretch - butt kicks, high knees, shuffles, toe touches, and etc. (set up cones about 10 – 15 yards apart)
- Foot skills – toe taps, foundations, foundations with roll (have kids stand in front of their cone to perform skill)

Skill Builder **JRs/CORE/MIDDLE: Dribble and Pass – 15 - 20 minutes**

- Set up two cones about 5 to 6 yards apart. Create as many cone set ups as pairs of kids.
- Each group should have one ball. Have the players line up behind the same cone.
- The first player will leave Cone A and dribble around Cone B. As the player makes the turn around Cone B they will pass the ball back to their partner at Cone A. Player one will then run back to Cone A.
- Player two will receive the ball at Cone A and repeat the process.
- This drill is design to keep continuous movement, coaches may use three players instead of two

Break - 5 minutes

Related Game **JRs/CORE/MIDDLE: Ice Monster Tag (page 81) – 15 - 20 minutes**

- Each player has a ball and is dribbling throughout a grid of any size.
- One person is the "Ice Monster" or "It" and is attempting to tag the other players with a pool noodle
- When a player is tagged s/he holds his/her ball over his/her head until another teammates pass the ball through his/her legs to free him/her
- The game ends when everyone is frozen.

Cool Down, Debrief, and Health Tip – 5-10 minutes

- Static stretch - leg stretches (hamstrings, quads, hips, etc.) and arm stretches (across chest, behind head, etc.). As the kids stretch, ask them some questions about the session.
 - Possible questions: Why is it important to keep our head up when we are dribbling? If someone is open for a pass far away, do we put more or less power in our pass?
- **Health Tip: Eating fruits is a great way to get a sweet treat and stay healthy.**

Lesson 4: Defending

DURATION: 45-60 minutes

Warm Up – 10 minutes

- Dynamic stretch - butt kicks, high knees, shuffles, toe touches, and etc. (set up cones about 10 – 15 yards apart)
- Foot skills – toe taps, foundations, foundations with roll (have kids stand in front of their cone to perform skill)

Skill Builder **JRs/CORE/MIDDLE: Defending with Partner – 15-20 minutes**

- *Role of Defender/Midfielder* is to keep the other team from scoring and to keep the ball away from the other team on offense
- In pairs students will practice defensive posture and movement. One student will dribble in a straight line towards the defender
- Defender will shuffle their feet moving backwards to stay a few feet ahead of the dribbler. The defender should not try to steal the ball, but remain in an athletic posture with knees bent and body balanced.
- Once the pair reaches the boundary of the exercise, the ball should be passed to the defender and the pair will switch roles, heading in the opposite direction.

Break - 5 minutes

Related Game **JRs/CORE: Monkey in the Middle (page 124) – 15-20 minutes**

- In 10x10yrd grids, play three attackers vs. one defender (the monkey in the middle).
- Attackers run along the path of the cones as they are trying to stay at a 90 degree angle to the teammate with the ball.
- Encourage players to think about where they should move next to support their teammate.
- Attackers score a point by making five passes in a row.

Related Game **CORE/MIDDLE: Monkey in the Middle *Advanced* (bottom of page 124) – 15-20 minutes**

- Same set up as above.
- Limit the number of touches among the attackers to 2/3 touches.
- To create more variation, make the grid smaller to make the passes between the attackers more difficult

Cool Down, Debrief, and Health Tip – 5-10 minutes

- Static stretch - leg stretches (hamstrings, quads, hips, etc.) and arm stretches (across chest, behind head, etc.). As the kids stretch, ask them some questions about the session.
 - Possible questions: What is the role of a defender or midfielder? What are some things to keep in mind as we are defending the ball?
- **Health Tip**: *Fill half your dinner plate with vegetables. Great way to fuel your body.*

Lesson 5: Possession

DURATION: 45-60 minutes

Warm Up – 10 minutes

- Dynamic stretch - butt kicks, high knees, shuffles, toe touches, and etc. (set up cones about 10 – 15 yards apart)
- Foot skills – toe taps, foundations, foundations with roll (have kids stand in front of their cone to perform skill)

Skill Builder *JRs*/CORE/MIDDLE: Passing in Order (page 127) – 15 - 20 minutes

- In a 25x25 yard grid, split the team in half and ask each team to go to their own half of the field. Each team has one ball.
- Number off the players on each team 1 through 8. Next, ask each team to pass, in order, from player #1 to #2 to #3... to #8, then back to #1.
- After both sides succeed a few times on their own half of the field, tell the teams to spread out through the whole field and repeat the exercise, continuing 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,1,2,3....
- Start one team on player #1, and the second team on player #4. See if one team can catch up to the other – make it a race.
- Although the teams are competing, they cannot defend against the other team

Break - 5 minutes

Related Game *JRs*/CORE/MIDDLE: Sharks and Minnows (page 86) – 15 - 20 minutes

- Create a 20x 30 yard grid with cones. Use multiple cones on the long side.
- Have all the players line up along one of the short sides of the grid, each with their own ball. They are the Minnows.
- The coach will be on the opposite side of the grid. The coach will have the pool noodle and be the Shark.
- On “Go” the Minnows will dribble their balls from one side of the grid to the other side of the grid. The players or “Minnows” must stay inside the cones. They may not go out of bounce.
- The Shark will try to use the pool noodle to tap the Minnow’s ball. If the Shark’s pool noodle taps a ball that Minnow is out.
- Continue to play until only one Minnow is left.
- Play as many rounds or games as possible during your allotted time.

Cool Down, Debrief, and Health Tip – 5-10 minutes

- Static stretch - leg stretches (hamstrings, quads, hips, etc.) and arm stretches (across chest, behind head, etc.). As the kids stretch, ask them some questions about the session.
 - Possible questions: Why is it important to possess the ball? How do we possess the ball?
- **Health Tip:** *Taking care of your body - make sure you are brushing your teeth. Make sure we keep our teeth strong.*