

How to Coach Soccer to Five-year-olds

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Show them which goal is theirs
and which goal
they're supposed to score in

show them the ball
and how to kick it

tie their cleats
when the laces come undone

let them stop
in the middle of the game
to chase a butterfly
or watch the moon rise

laugh when they roll on the grass
like puppies

cheer if they score
cheer if they don't

ignore chastising parents
who still haven't washed
the smell of victory
off their old high school uniforms

remember the kids are here to play
but that most of the time
soccer is beside the point.