

Do's and Don'ts for Parents and Spectators

The parents' role is the toughest -- it's not easy to watch your kids play.

DO'S

1. Do treat the child the same whether he or she wins or loses.
2. Do try to have fun and enjoy the events and the travel. Your unhappiness can breed a child's guilt.
3. Do look relaxed, calm, positive and energized on the sidelines. Your attitude will help the child play better.
4. Do make friends with other parents at the event. Socializing can make the event more fun.
5. Do get involved if the child's behavior is unacceptable during match play. Your child doesn't want to be labeled a jerk.
6. Do let the coach do the coaching. Too much input can confuse the child. You are paying top dollar for a coach let them earn it 😊
7. Do understand that the child needs a break from tennis occasionally. It doesn't mean the child is quitting or burning out.
8. Do be there when the child loses or gets discouraged. Be an understanding listener, not a fixer.
9. Do, at the same time, give the child some space when he or she loses. Your youngster will want to be alone for awhile, and then he/she will be okay.
10. Do keep your sense of humor. When you laugh and have fun, your child's stress level will big drop.
11. Do be tough on your player where sportsmanship and cheating are concerned -- nobody wants to be saddled with the label poor sport or cheater. Stop it now.
12. Support your child emotionally, financially, and logistically.

You have three roles as a parent 1) support 2) support 3) support.

DON'TS

1. Don't say, "We're playing today." Instead, say "You're playing today." This is your child's match; help them learn how to be responsible for preparing to play (registration, match check-in).
2. Don't get too pushy.
3. Don't turn away when the child behaves in an unsportsmanlike manner on or off the court.
4. Don't tell the child what he or she did wrong or right after a tough match.
5. Don't ask the child to talk to you immediately after a loss.
6. Don't try to take the coach's job away. **Be the parent.**
7. Don't make enemies with your child's opponent's parents during the match.
8. Don't act negatively and angrily on the sidelines unless your child is acting in an unsportsmanlike manner; they'll pick up on it in a heartbeat.
9. Don't make your life your child's tennis - Don't live out your own dreams through your child's tennis.
10. Don't make your child feel guilty for all the time, money, and sacrifices you're making for his/her tennis.
11. Don't think of your child's tennis as an investment for which you expect a return.
12. Don't compare your child's progress with that of other children.
13. Don't badger, harass, or use sarcasm to motivate your child.
14. Don't talk about us (coaches, staff) talk to us, if you have comments or suggestions.
15. No coaching from the side (serve and volley, hit to the backhand)

DON'T EQUATE WINNING WITH LOVE!!

This is probably the absolute most important thing NOT to do. You must have unconditional love for your child.

This is a great game. You and your kids will have fun, grow and make great friends - everyone can be a winner.