

Coaching Baseball

By

Reggie Kyles

My name is Reggie Kyles and I coach for Orange Crest Little League (OCLL). I first got involved with OCLL about 3 years ago when two of my boys were introduced to the Farm division of baseball. My boys had never played the game of baseball before and honestly, couldn't tell you what the game was about.

The coach at the time had an experienced team and I quickly recognized that if my boys were to see some playing time, I had to spend a lot of time with them outside of practice with the team. As I was teaching my boys the fundamentals and the basics of the game, I thought, how many other kids are on teams that may not understand the true basics of the game. My thought process was, the more they understand the game, the more willing they would want to come to practice and play the game. Believe me, there were times when my two boys were ready to quit after getting "popped" in the head a few times with the ball. They did not understand how this game could be "fun" in any way. But the more I practiced with them and the more I spoke to them about the game I saw that it was starting to click for them.

I decided then I would coach the following season. I wanted to make sure that at least some of the kids that were playing for OCLL were going to understand the game of baseball and make it fun. It's no fun sitting on the bench. It's no fun making mistakes and having coaches and players on you. You can't learn in an environment like that. Kids will eventually start to make excuses to miss practices and even games. My heart and passion to coach stemmed from watching my two boys learn the game and starting to enjoy it. I wanted to be that coach that took the time to stop, train, and practice every aspect of the game of baseball.