

## **The Coach: Role and Goals**

The job of the coach is to accelerate the learning process. This requires him to coach the crucial learning points and to do it in an efficient manner. With the small amount of time that children spend at training sessions, both points are critical.

With the correct games, there will be many opportunities to solve the soccer problem. It is how the coach approaches these moments that determine the outcome of the session. If he is overbearing then the session is about him and he becomes the focal point. If he is invisible then the learning is by luck. It is just the right touch that keeps the practice being about the game and provides the best climate for learning.

Be careful of absolutes. Absolutes limit children's thoughts and actions. Soccer encourages expression, it is part of what makes the game enjoyable. Absolutes also become dogma. They educate through fear and fear takes the fun out of anything. It is better to let children try something and fail. Then help them to understand the consequences. This can turn on the light bulb of understanding. Teaching is like lighting a torch, not filling a jug. Children have a natural level of curiosity that should be encouraged.