

When you are coaching 5-6 year olds, you don't drill, you PLAY. Each should have his or her own ball as much as possible. Your training should be all about technique, not tactics and every exercise you do should be a fun game to teach a skill. Stay away from players standing in lines more than 1 or 2 deep to get a chance to play and let them explore the game from their own eyes.

At some level, you are teaching socialization within a soccer framework. This age group should not be led, but guided.

Check out Pill's Drills from the [eteamz.com](http://eteamz.com) directory and Jeff Pill, who is a master at developing fun games to play and has a bunch for you to absorb.

I'll give you an example of a fun game where everyone is moving etc. and has their own ball:

Create two teams: Mark off two grids (numbers and size of grid should match and as you try these fun games you will adjust).

Each player on Team A has a ball in grid A and is dribbling around. One player from Team B (different color bib) also has a ball in Grid A and is dribbling around and trying to tag or kick the ball out of the grid. Count the scores in a 30 second time. Then another B player comes into the A grid.

Of course the same thing is happening in Grid B in reverse. Does this make sense? I hope so because it's fun and everyone is learning to control the ball at his or her feet while laughing and running and doing everything that makes a soccer practice worthwhile.