



**ONTARIO  
SOCCER.**

EST. 1901

# Learn to Train Session Plan

For coaches of  
U8-11 females  
and U9-U12  
males





# Ontario Soccer Player Development Model: The Station Concept

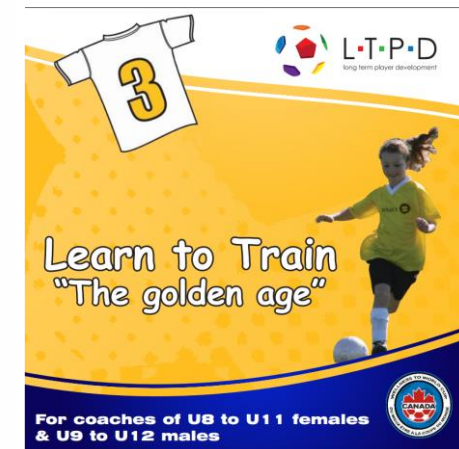


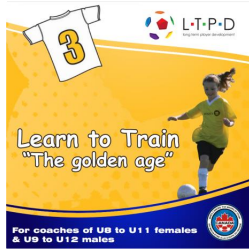
**The activities provided illustrate how stations can be used during Grassroots practices.**

**All sessions take a holistic approach to developing our youth. Each game and activity will focus on 4 main areas of the child's development; these include social/emotional, physical, psychological and technical.**

**Total practice time 45-70 minutes as per the Recreational and Development Matrix.**

**Play. Inspire. Unite.**





# Ontario Soccer Player Development Model How it works



## Introduction

During the practice players will spend an allotted time at each station having fun, developing specific skills and qualities before moving onto the next station. By using station work we create an environment where players are continually motivated and challenged.

## Organization

If working with a larger group, organize players into groups of 6 or 8. Each station has a coach who leads that specific station for the session.

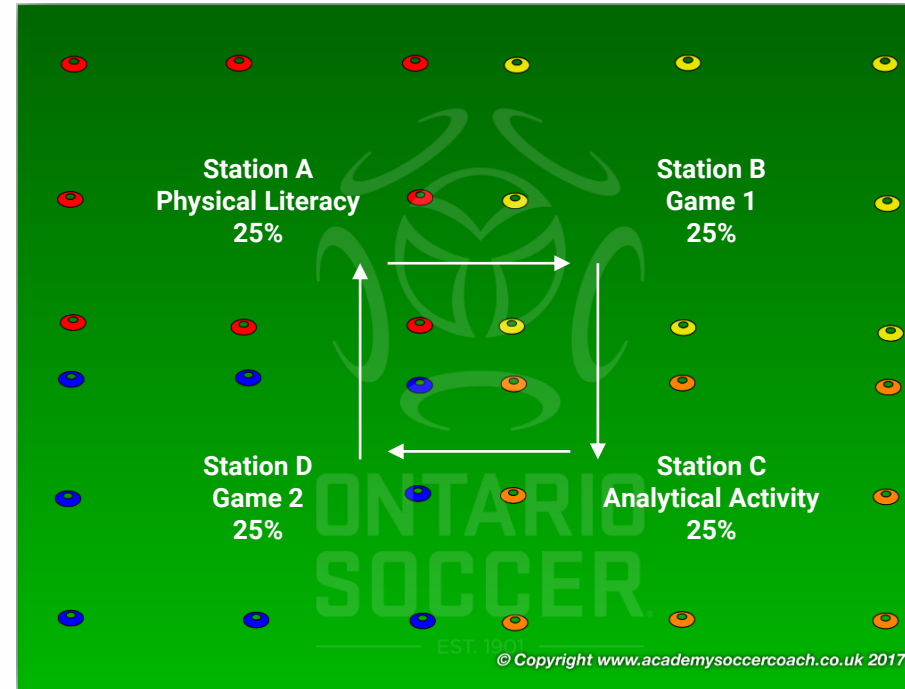
If working with a smaller group, simply move together through all 4 stations until all are complete.

## Procedure

Players rotate through each activity. Provide a 2 minute break in between each station for water and to allow movement to the next station.

## Emphasis

In these examples one station focuses on Physical Literacy, two stations on movements with the ball or small sided games and the 4th station is focused around technique with decision making.



Timing	Area
Total Time: 70 mins 4 x 12 minute Stations	30 x 30 m (x4)

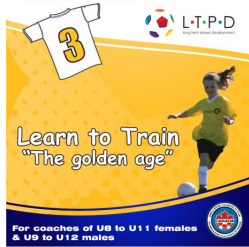
Technical	U9	U10	U11	U12	Physical	U9	U10	U11	U12
Dribbling	1	1	1	1	Agility	1	1	1	1
Running with the ball	1	1	1	1	Balance	1	1	1	1
Shooting	1	1	1	1	Coordination	1	1	1	1
Ball Control	2	1	1	1	Stamina	2	2	2	1
Passing	2	1	1	1	Strength	2	2	2	1
Receiving	2	1	1	1	Speed	1	1	1	1
Heading	4	4	4	3	Suppleness	2	2	2	2
Shielding	3	2	2	1	Acceleration	1	1	1	1
Crossing	3	2	2	1	Reaction	1	1	1	1
Finishing	3	2	2	1	Basic Motor Skills	1	1	1	1
1v1 Defending	3	3	2	1	Perception	1	1	1	1
1v1 Attacking	2	1	1	1	Awareness	1	1	1	1
Socio-Emotional	U9	U10	U11	U12	Psychological	U9	U10	U11	U12
Listening	2	2	1	1	Motivation	1	1	1	1
Co-operation	2	2	1	1	Self Confidence	1	1	1	1
Communication	1	1	1	1	Competitiveness	2	2	1	1
Sharing	2	1	1	1	Concentration	2	2	1	1
Problem-solving	2	2	1	1	Commitment	2	2	2	1
Decision-making	2	2	1	1	Self Control	2	2	1	1
Empathy	3	2	1	1	Determination	2	2	1	1
Patience	3	2	1	1	Tactical	U9	U10	U11	U12
Respect / discipline	2	1	1	1	Playing out from the back	2	2	2	1
Fair play / honesty	2	1	1	1	Attacking Principles	3	3	3	3
					Possession	2	2	2	2
					Transition	2	2	2	2
					Counter Attacking	4	4	4	4
					Switching Play	4	4	4	3
					Combination Play	2	2	2	1
					Zonal Defending	4	4	4	4
					Pressing	3	2	2	2
					Retreat	3	3	3	3
					Recovery	3	3	3	3
					Compactness	3	3	3	2

### Priority Key

High	1
Medium	2
Low	3
Not Applicable	4

## Top Tip

Did you know that more session plans for Active Start, Fundamentals and Learn to Train can be found at: <http://www.ontariosoccer.net/grassroots-practices>



# Learn to Train

## Station A - Physical Literacy



### Organization

3v3 in an 8mx8m area. One ball needed with spare balls placed around the outside.

### Procedure

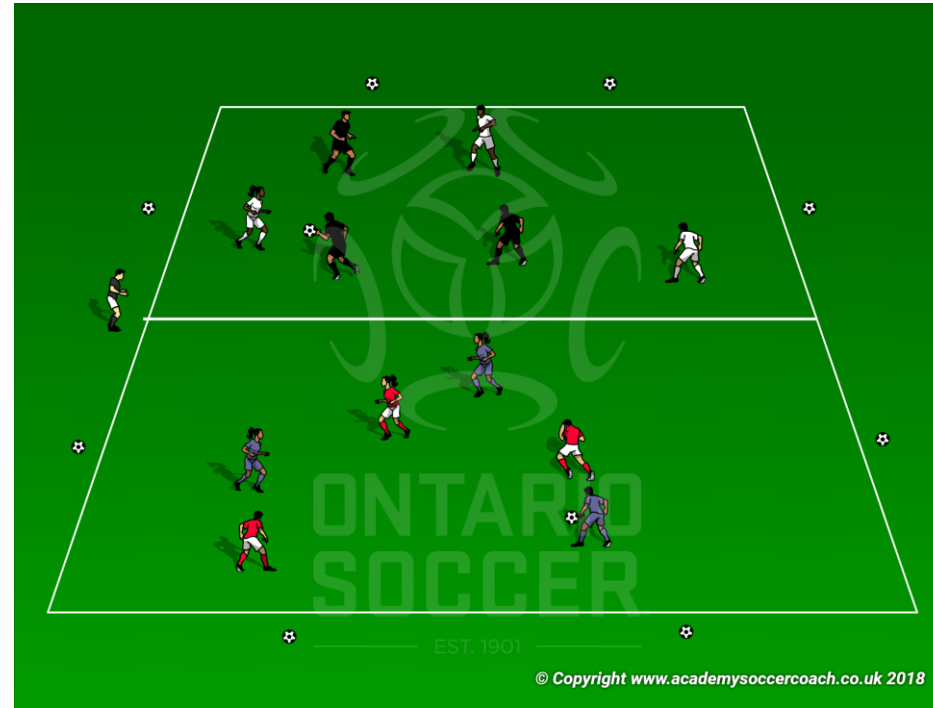
The player in possession of the ball is charged with making eye contact with a player who will take over the ball from them and continue the process. Add in a ball for another player or two. Use different cues for players to take over the ball, it can be visual, verbal or physical. Add in cues for other actions, for example, a clap suggests a player takes on the ball and dribbles into a second zone. Another example, would be to have a cue initiate a move to receive a pass across the half way line or into the opposing teams half.

### Emphasis

Creating a safe environment, positive reinforcement, allow decision making, and demonstration of the activity.

### Progression

Add a second ball into the mix.



Timing	Area
12 minutes	16m x 8m (2 halves 8x8m)

### Objective

To develop spatial awareness

### Outcomes

**All Players** - will be able to create space to receive the ball

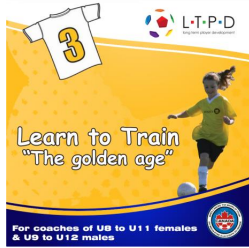
**Most Players** - will be able to receive the ball in space with optimal body orientation

**Some Players** - will be able to receive under pressure with optimal body orientation

Technical / Tactical	Psychological
Passing Receiving Turning Scanning	Competition Resilience Decision Making
Socio - Emotional	Physical
Problem Solving Verbal Communication Non-Verbal Communication	Agility Balance Coordination Speed

### Top Tip

Use a model group to explain the activity to players. If there are players who may have shorter attention spans in the group, use them in your demonstrations to keep them engaged.



# Learn to Train

## Station B - Small Sided Game



### Organization

Four teams of 3. Two teams within the field. Two teams organized outside (with 1 player within).

### Procedure

The teams within the field play a 3v3 small-sided game. This is to provide interference for the other two groups.

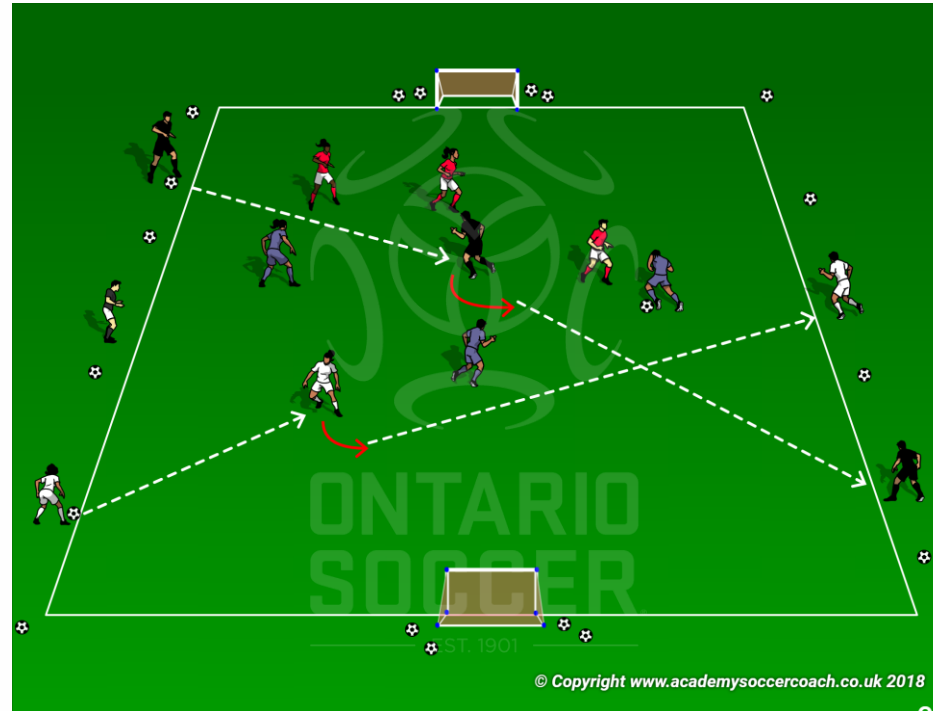
The other two groups, have a single player within the game who must receive from their outside team-mate and look to advance on the field and play to a wide player for a return cross and finish. Once a player has scored on one goal, they should receive the next pass and advance in the opposite direction with the aim to shoot finish and score.

### Emphasis

Creating a safe environment, positive reinforcement, allow decision making, and demonstration of the activity.

### Progression

The neutral players at centre field can compete 1v1 using outside players as neutral support players.



### Timing

12 minutes

### Area

20m x 15m

### Objective

To develop spatial awareness

### Outcomes

**All Players** - will be able to create space to receive the ball

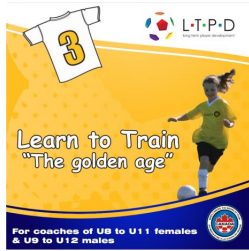
**Most Players** - will be able to receive the ball in space with optimal body orientation

**Some Players** - will be able to receive under pressure with optimal body orientation

Technical / Tactical	Psychological
Passing Receiving Turning Scanning	Competition Resilience Decision Making
Socio - Emotional	Physical
Problem Solving Verbal Communication Non-Verbal Communication	Agility Balance Coordination Speed

### Top Tip

Always ensure we keep players moving and engaged. We can do this by giving players specific tasks to do on-field that create interference for other players to have more decisions being made throughout the session.



# Learn to Train

## Station C - Analytical Activity



### Organization

Four teams of 3 players. Two on the exterior of the grid with one within.

### Procedure

Ball begins with a player (one from each team) on the outside. Players within the grid look to find space and receive the ball, turn, and play their other team-mate. When they have completed that action, they then look to switch the ball within the grid with another team-mate. Then playing the ball back to an outside player and switching places.

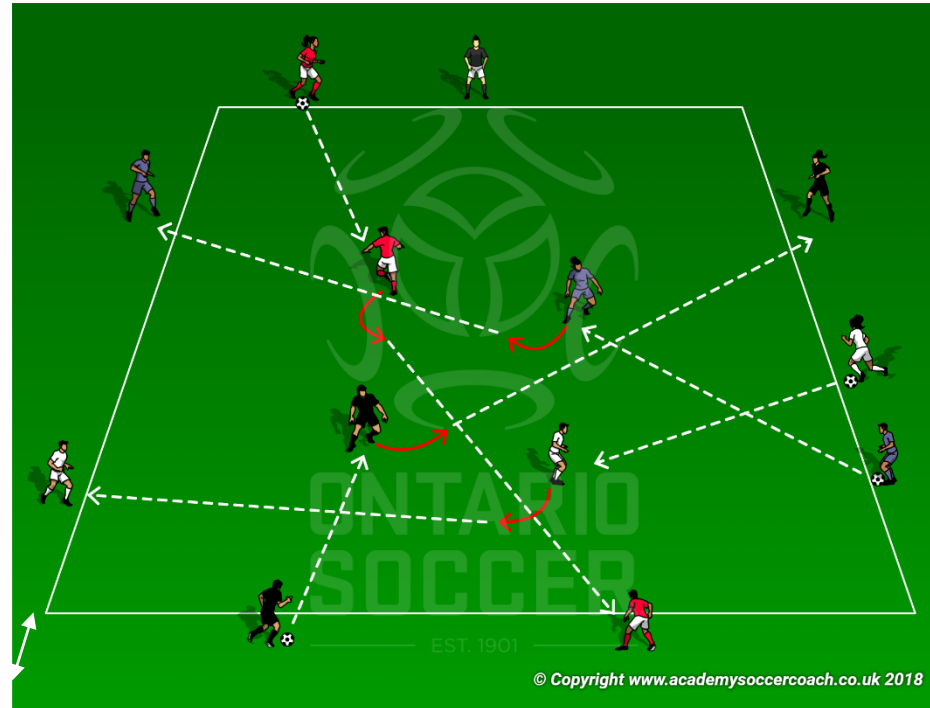
Players should be aware of the other players and open space.

### Emphasis

Creating a safe environment, positive reinforcement, allow decision making, and demonstration of the activity.

### Progression

Outside players move to another side of the grid around the perimeter.



### Timing

12 Minutes

### Area

20m x 20m

### Objective

To develop spatial awareness

### Outcomes

**All Players** - will be able to create space to receive the ball

**Most Players** - will be able to receive the ball in space with optimal body orientation

**Some Players** - will be able to receive under pressure with optimal body orientation

### Technical / Tactical

Passing  
Receiving  
Turning  
Scanning

### Psychological

Competition  
Resilience  
Decision Making

### Socio - Emotional

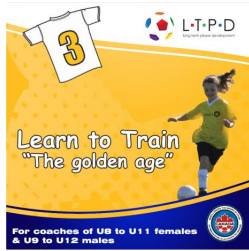
Problem Solving  
Verbal Communication  
Non-Verbal Communication

### Physical

Agility  
Balance  
Coordination  
Speed

### Top Tip

Show players examples of professional players executing these techniques. Perhaps use a cell phone or a tablet to show examples of TFC, Ottawa Fury or the Canadian National Team and ask what details they can see and try and replicate.



# Learn to Train

## Station D - Small Sided Game



### Organization

Two teams of 6v6 (or 7v7). Balls are placed around the outside of the pitch for quick restarts.

### Procedure

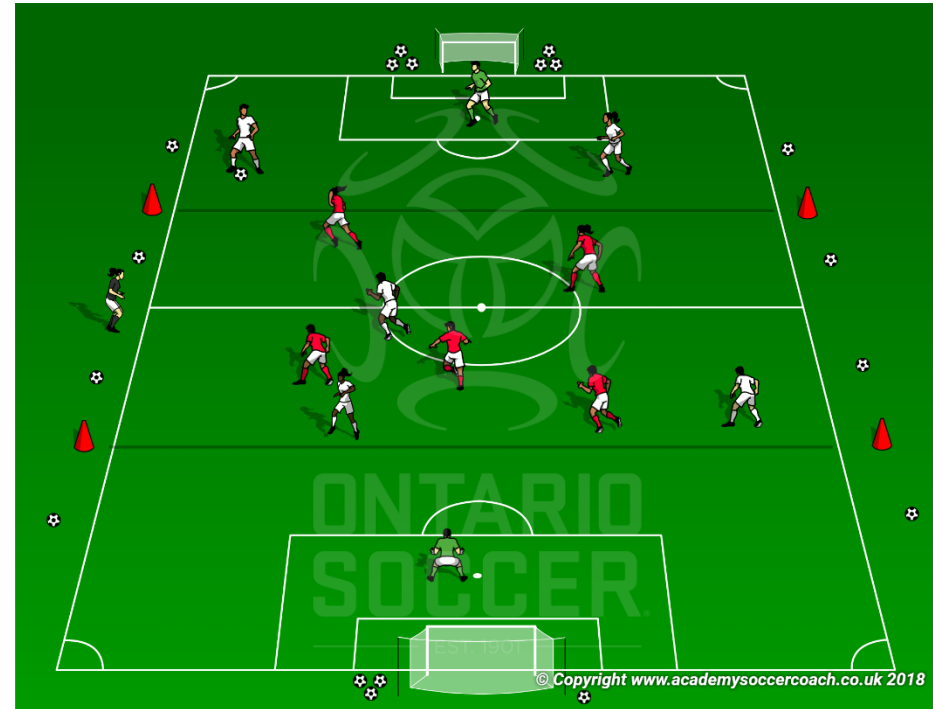
Players play a normal game with all age and stage appropriate rules applied. Retreat line, offsides, throw ins.

### Emphasis

Creating a safe environment, positive reinforcement, allow decision making, demonstration of activity, and ensure game realism.

### Progression

N/A



### Timing

12 Minutes

### Area

40m x 30m

### Objective

To develop spatial awareness

### Outcomes

**All Players** - will be able to create space to receive the ball

**Most Players** - will be able to receive the ball in space with optimal body orientation

**Some Players** - will be able to receive under pressure with optimal body orientation

### Technical / Tactical

Passing  
Receiving  
Turning  
Scanning

### Psychological

Competition  
Resilience  
Decision Making

### Socio - Emotional

Problem Solving  
Verbal Communication  
Non-Verbal Communication

### Physical

Agility  
Balance  
Coordination  
Speed

### Top Tip

Use visuals to explain the activity like a tactics board or a 'mini field' with cones and a ball that represent players. Encourage players to ask questions when explaining the activity when everyone is close together. Put the pinnies out on the field in the correct place to allow for a quick start.

# Ontario Soccer Resources

## Coaches' Guides

- Game Organisation Guide
- Field Organisation Guide
- Festival Guide
- 8 Ways to Develop the Grassroots Game
- How does the Inclusive Programming Model work at your Soccer Club?
- Incorporating Physical Literacy in our Practices

## Grassroots Curriculum

- Learn to Train U8/U9-U11/U12 (Brochure)
- Learn to Train Workbook and Practice Plan
- Learn to Train U8/9-U11/12 (Curriculum)
- All other online Grassroots Practices

## Online Practice Videos

## Online Webinars

