Mite Station Practice #4

Age Level: Mite | Emphasis: skating, shooting, puck control

**CONTROL TURN RACES**

**Setup**
This is a skating hockey drill that is geared for the young kids. The focus is on control turns and inside edges in the context of a race to add some urgency. It only uses the neutral zone so it can be useful when designing a practice that uses stations. The players line up along the boards in two teams. The first player in each team is just outside the blue line (as shown in the diagram). Four cones are used, each cone is placed in line with the dots half way between the red line and blue line. On the whistle the first player in each line skates straight down the line and around the cone using a control turn. Then they skate back towards the line and do another control turn going the other way around the other cone. After the second control turn they should be just inside the red line and they sprint to the finish line which is marked by the other two cones. You can run this drill as an individual race or a relay race.

**Coaching Points**
» Have fun and compete!

**TURNS AND STOPS STATION**

**Setup**
This hockey drill offers two similar drills on each side of the ice, one that works on power turns, the other works on stops and starts. Set up the coach in the high slot in the middle of the ice with the pucks. Four cones, tires, or discs need to be set up as shown. On one side the players make turns around the cones and on the other side the players stop at each cone. After the player navigates the fourth cone they skate into the center of the ice and receive a pass from the coach for a shot on net.
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NEUTRAL ZONE PUCK CONTROL STATION #1

Setup
The set up requires two tires (or cones) and 1 net. Place the net along the goal line and the tires just inside the hash marks (as shown). The first player starts the drill by skating towards the net and then around one of the tires where they pick up a puck. The player controls the puck around the tire back in front of the net for a shot. After the shot the player continues around the tire, picks up another puck, maintains control, then fires another shot on net.

Coaching Points
» Players should work on gaining control of the puck getting it to their forehand as soon as possible and shooting with their head up.
» Rotate chest with stick on the ice to make tight turn.

My Notes

WEAVE SHOTS

Setup
Place a net along the goal line in line with the dots as shown, a coach with pucks in the corner, and a line of players on the opposite side of the net. Three or four cones can be place in front of the players and one cone on the opposite side at about the hash marks. The players carry the puck through the cones so that they are protecting the puck from the cone. As they come around the last cone they turn back towards the net and take a shot as quickly as possible. After the shot the player turns to the boards, circles the around the cone and receives a pass from the coach for another shot on net.

Coaching Points
» Head up while handling the puck.
» Rotate chest sharply around cone and be ready for pass with stick on the ice.

My Notes
**Backwards Give & Go Station**

**Setup**
This is the first of the backwards give and go station drills. This is a good series for the younger ages because it can be set up in a small area of ice, in this case it only uses half of the offensive zone. Set up the drill as shown using two cones and the players lined up along the blue line with pucks.

The first player starts backwards while handling a puck. At the cone they transition forwards while controlling the puck and make a pass to the next player in line. The next player in line give them a pass right back. The first player retrieves the puck and skates around the second cone before they take a shot on net. The second player starts the drill after they make the pass to the player in front of them.

**Coaching Points**
- Head and good hockey position when carrying the puck backwards.
- Players should be ready for passes giving good targets and calling for passes.