

The Eyes of a Child

Can you remember back to a monumental achievement in your life? Something you are really proud of. Was it?

- Buying your first home
- Having your first child
- Getting married
- Finishing year 12
- Getting a degree
- Playing in the chess Olympiad or beating a Grandmaster

All of these are incredibly important moments in your life. Think about how you felt before, during and just after these moments.

We need to realise that a child has had far fewer experiences in life, which means that relatively speaking each experience is **magnified in intensity**.

There are moments which, to a child, seem equally as important as your wedding day. That may seem silly now – but when viewed through the eyes of a child....

So each time you award a medal to a child, remember that this might be **THE most important moment** of his/her life to date. Equally as important as your wedding day or the Birth day of your first child.

- How should you treat that moment?
- What can you do to respect their experience?
- To improve and enhance the experience?
- To create a sense of ceremony?
- What words can you say?
- How do you build the tension and emotion?

Think about other ceremonies; what do they do?

- The Oscars
- The Olympics
- The AFL Grand Final
- The Australian Open

During the 2008 Olympic Games there were over **930 medals awarded**, yet for each one there was a ceremony which appeared to be of the GREATEST importance.

As a coach you might hand out hundreds or even thousands of medals, certificates, awards, praise, etc...

For each one you need to create the sense of occasion which it deserves.

You must give the child the respect and treat with importance which they will then attach to the experience.

How you treat the experience will impact how the child will experience the moment!

A recent example:

We had a call from a parent who told us the situation was as follows;
A (7 year old) child finished in 1st place in the school tournament. During the final session medals were handed out. The child expected to get a gold medal but mistakenly received a bronze and another child was given the gold.

The action the coach took was to tell the child not to worry and that he would give them a replacement Gold the start of the following term.

The 'attitude' that came across was that "It's only a \$3 medal - I've got plenty" ... and not one of scarcity. So the child was upset for 2 reasons:

1. The person who wrongly got the gold was undeserving
2. Not only did he get the wrong one, but then the right one was devalued

What was a better way of doing it?

MORAL OF THE STORY

Everything matters