

# LEARNING WHEN WE PLAY



Peppermint Patty knows how to be a good sport. She is a loyal and encouraging friend, and she knows how to try hard and play fair. That makes her a valuable team player.

Read the following story. Then, rewrite it so that the main character not only helps himself but also becomes a good sport and encourages his teammates.

*Aiden loved soccer, but it was his first time playing on an elite team, and things weren't going well. Everything was new! The plays were a little different, and the formations were unfamiliar. Aiden kept mistiming passes. Embarrassed, he stopped running and kicked at the ground in anger. He was the best player on his old team, but now he was just the new guy. "I don't belong here," he said to himself, scowling at his feet. His teammates ran past him up the field. "Let's go! You've got this!" one of his teammates shouted, trying to encourage him, but Aiden just kicked the ground again.*

Now turn this story into a "win-win" for everyone:

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**Families:** Today your child learned that it's important to keep trying — even if they fail at first — and to have a good attitude along the way by being a good sport and encouraging their teammates. Talk with your children about how you can be good "teammates" at home as well. How can you help each other with homework and chores? Reinforce the support with "thumbs up" notes on the fridge when a family "teammate" needs it.