

## Be an Olympics Commentator!

Have your aspiring broadcast journalist imagine that she is a sports radio or television personality who has been assigned to cover the Olympics. To prepare for this job, she can listen to and observe some professionals at work, and then try her hand at the job. To make it seem realistic, assign someone in the family to be the cameraman and capture the footage so your child can watch herself in action.

Doing live commentary, remembering players' names, and utilizing sports lingo may not be as easy as it looks! This activity will stretch her comfort zone, hone her presentation skills, and encourage her to think on her feet.

### What You Need:

- Toy microphone or paper rolled up to look like one
- Live or taped television coverage of a sport being played
- Someone in charge of the video camera

### What You Do:

1. To prepare, your child can tune in to television or radio coverage of a couple Olympics events. Have her pay close attention to the reporters' diction, tone of voice, speech pattern, and the information that is being delivered.
2. When she is ready, turn on the television and play the sporting event that your child is going to cover.
3. Have the camera operator countdown, "Three, two, one, we're live!" Then, with microphone in hand, your child can take a stab at reporting what she sees. It's tougher than it looks, so keep encouraging your child and be willing to tape multiple takes.
4. When your child has a segment that she is satisfied with, play it back so she can enjoy seeing herself on camera. Kids get a kick out of hearing their voices on tape, especially since they typically don't think they sound like that in person.

Your child will probably gain greater respect for professional on-air personalities. She will also benefit from this opportunity to practice her speaking skills, handle pressure, maintain poise, and forge ahead—despite a few stumbles and stutters.

© Copyright 2006-2012 Education.com All Rights Reserved.

