



Making the Team

Written and Illustrated by Jennifer Cheatham

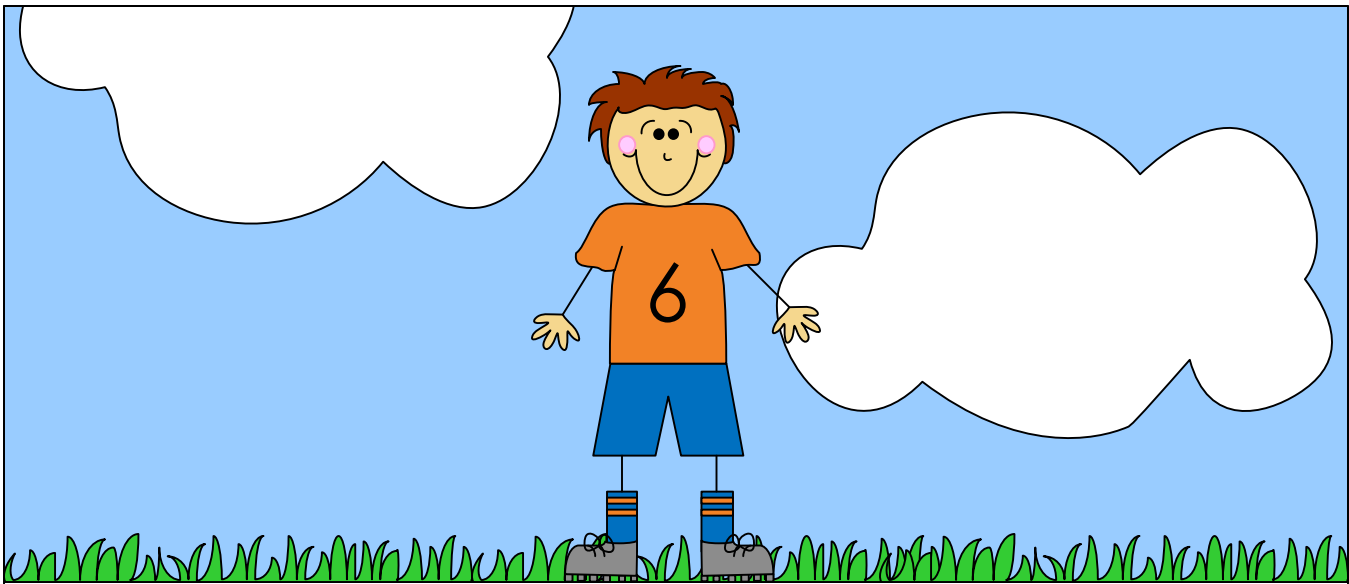
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Making the Team

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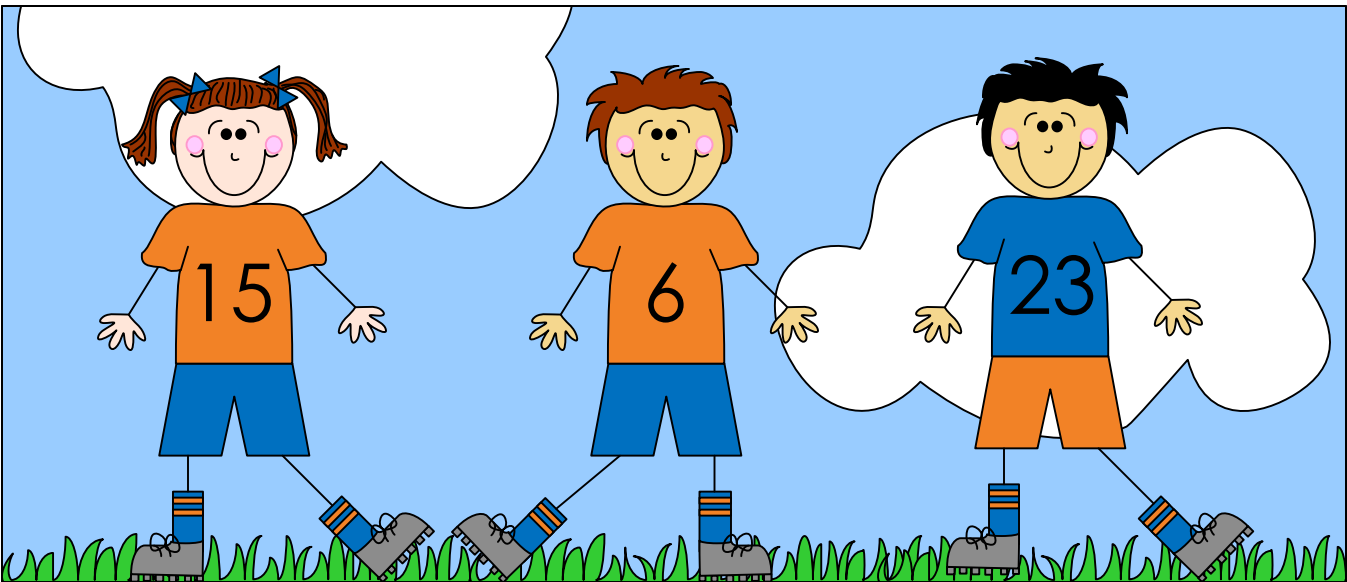
I love to play soccer. It is so much fun! I think I am very good at soccer. Every year I try out for the soccer team. I like to play soccer so it is fun for me to play on a soccer team.

There are a lot of kids who all try out for the team. We all go to a big green yard where we play soccer. There are benches for people to sit on so they can see us while we are playing soccer. The coach of the team tells us what to do. All the kids who try out have to do a lot of different things so the coach can see our soccer skills.

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Then we get in a line side by side. When the coach says "Go" we run as fast as we can to the other side of the yard. Then we run as fast as we can back to the place where we started. After we run to the other side of the yard and back, we rest a little bit. Then we do it again. We do that four times. The coach watches us to see who can run fast for a long way.

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First we stretch because we do not want to get hurt while we are running. If you do not want to get hurt when you run you need to stretch first.

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Next we line up and face the soccer goal. The coach passes a soccer ball to the first kid in the line. The kid kicks the ball and aims for the goal. The point is to see who can kick the soccer ball into the goal. After the first kid in the line kicks the soccer ball, he goes to the end of the line and waits for his next turn. All the kids get to try to kick the ball into the goal at least four times.

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Next we make two lines and face each other. The coach kicks us a ball and we kick it to the kid across from us. We pass the ball back and forth. This way the coach can see who can pass the ball well.

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Last, we play a short soccer match. There are two rules for this soccer match. The first rule is that you can not
10 use your hands. You play soccer with your feet.

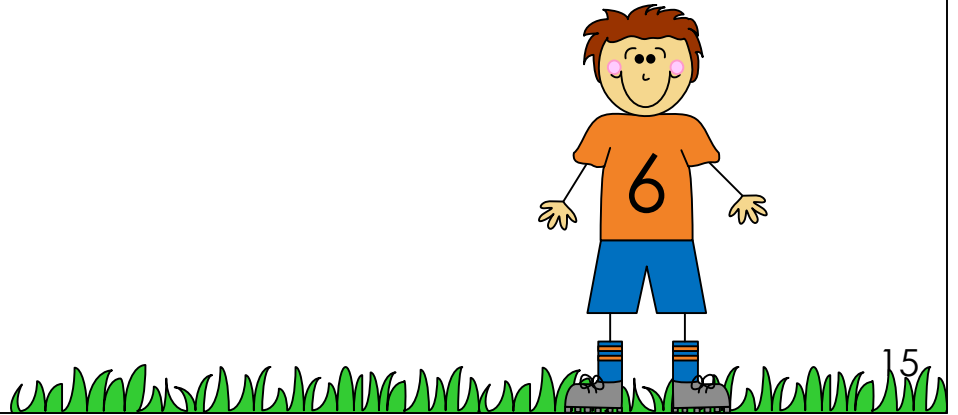
The other rule is that you have to be a good sport. That means that you are not mean and you do not hurt other kids while you play. It also means that you are nice if you win, and nice if you do not win. You say "good game" at the end of the game, no matter what. You are not rude.

The first time I tried out for the team I did not make it. I was very sad, but I knew that I could make the team the next time if I kept playing at home and always did my best. Every day I would go outside in my backyard when I got home from school. I kicked, I ran, and I aimed at the goal in my backyard. I got better and better every day.

When we play the short match, I do my very best. I want to show the coach how good I am at soccer. I can kick the ball. I can run down the yard. I can aim at the goal. I am very good at soccer and I want the coach to know it so I can make the team.

The next time I tried out for the team, I made it! I still go out to my backyard when I get home from school to run, kick, and aim. I like playing soccer and I want to keep getting better at it.

This year I am going to try out for the team again. I hope I make it! There are always a lot of kids who try out for the team who are very good at soccer. I never know if I will be on the team until the team list comes out.



I always just do my very best. I run as fast as I can. I kick hard. I aim for the goal. I want to make the team, because I love to play soccer. It is so much fun to play soccer on a team. I will do my best and hope I make the team.

