

Choosing your child's skating coach should be a well thought out process. Go to the rink and observe coaches during group lessons and private lessons. Ask other parents of children who take lessons with a coach what their opinions are. Ask your child their thoughts of a coach, perhaps they have had them during a group lesson.

When you have narrowed your search down, make contact with your top choices. Speaking with the coach on the phone may be best, coaches are busy while at the rink and do not always have the appropriate amount of time to hold a lengthy, meaningful conversation.

Sample Questions to ask when hiring a coach:

1. What are your personal skating accomplishments?
2. What are the accomplishments of your students?
3. How long have you been a coach?
4. What other jobs have you held?
5. What skating disciplines do you teach regularly?
6. Do you teach beginner skaters?
7. Do you teach competitive skaters?
8. Are you a current/active member of any professional organizations...such as the US Figure Skating Association, the Professional Skaters Association (PSA), or the Ice Skating Institute (ISI)?
9. Do you hold any ratings from the PSA?
10. What is your lesson rate?
11. Do you charge any other fees (music editing, skating fitting, choreography, etc.)?
12. What is your policy for student "no shows"?
13. What are your goals when you teach?
14. Do you carry Professional insurance?

Remember: Do not be afraid or hesitate to ask for an explanation of anything you may not understand. A good coach understands that part of what makes them a good coach is helping to educate the parent as much as it is to teach a child skating moves.