

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Trophy Dilemma: Are Participation Trophies Really Beneficial for Kids?

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. One personal experience is witnessing a youth soccer league where every participant received a trophy at the end of the season, regardless of their team's performance. This ambiguity sends the message that merely showing up is enough to be recognized. Consequently, children might not fully grasp the value of working hard or improving their skills since everyone is rewarded equally.
2. Participation trophies can hinder resilience and perseverance because they shield children from experiencing failure and disappointment. For instance, in a scenario where a child's soccer team consistently loses but still receives a trophy, they may not learn how to cope with defeat or the motivation to work harder and improve for the next season. Instead, they might become accustomed to the idea that they'll be rewarded regardless of the outcome, which can hinder their development of resilience in the face of challenges.
3. A potential long-term consequence of participation trophies fostering entitlement is that children may grow up with unrealistic expectations and a lack of motivation to put in effort. For instance, if children always receive rewards without earning them, they might expect similar treatment in adulthood, which can lead to disappointment and frustration. In their attitudes and behaviors, this entitlement might manifest as a lack of work ethic, reluctance to take on challenges, or a sense of entitlement in the workplace, where they may expect recognition without putting in the necessary effort.
4. Competition is vital in teaching children valuable life lessons, such as setting goals, pushing their limits, and striving to be their best. In sports, competition encourages athletes to train harder and improve their skills to outperform opponents. It also teaches teamwork and cooperation, as working together is often essential for success. Moreover, competition helps children learn to handle both victory and defeat gracefully, promoting good sportsmanship and resilience. These lessons extend beyond sports and prepare children for challenges they may face throughout their lives, instilling qualities like determination, perseverance, and the ability to work toward achieving their goals.

