

## First-to-Third Drill

### The Objective

The coach will hit a ball to the right fielder.

Can the runner make it from first to third without being thrown out?

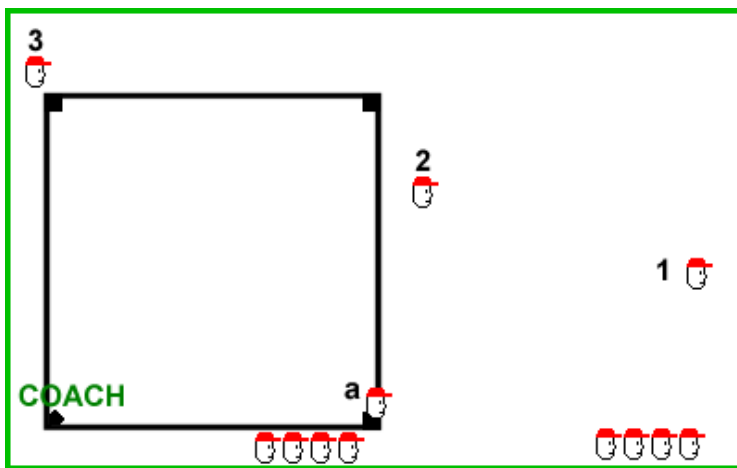
### Skills

Defense: relays and tagging

Running: rounding the base sliding

### Arrangement

- Break your kids into two groups.
- Have half of them get helmets and line up near first base. Put the first kid on as a runner (kid a)
- Have the other half get their mitts. Put one at third (kid 3), one at second base (kid 2), one in right field (kid 1) and the rest line up in foul territory near the RF foul pole (to stay out of the way). Kids 1, 2 and 3 should form a line – this reinforces relay alignment.



### The Drill

The coach stands at home plate and hits a soft line drive to right field – not a catchable ball, but more like a strong single in a real game. The runner (a) cannot leave first base until the ball hits the bat. Teach kid 2 to stay away from second base. If he is too close to second, when he gets the ball from right field and tries to throw to third, the runner will be in the way, so have kid #2 play on the first-base side of second base, as shown. Vary your hits to match the runner. If you have a slower runner at first, challenge the defense more by hitting the ball deeper or more toward center field.

### After the play,

Runner (a) grabs his mitt and heads out to right field to get in line.

The next kid in line at first becomes the new runner at first

Kid 3 grabs a helmet and gets in line at first base

Kid 2 moves to play third base

Kid 1 moves to play second base.

The next kid in line in right field moves into position to get the next hit from the coach.