

HAVE FUN AND CREATE HARMONISATION

DIVERTIRSE Y CREAR ARMONÍA

by/de: Thomas Akerblom

By the age of 16, Ali Yenilmez was a top tennis player in Turkey and played on the Davis Cup team. An unfortunate motorcycle accident put an end to his professional tennis career, but started a fantastic career in teaching. Ali has today been working as a tennis pro for over 30 years, and is said to be one of the best. A decade ago he moved to Mallorca with his American wife, and together they started the Tennis Academy Mallorca.

"Actually, we intended to settle down somewhere in Miami, Florida, buy a small hotel and teach tennis. But after a visit to Mallorca, we were caught by the island's charm. A perfect spot for an international family with children to enjoy both home and work. Here we are very happy", he says.

Ali has excellent communication skills and most importantly a sense of fun. He heads a team of internationally certified coaches who share his dedication to improving and inspiring every pupil in a fun-

both adults and kids.

"I've worked with children for 30 years and love to see how they develop their motor skills from a

very young age", he says. "You need to start early by playfully teaching your kid in your living room. You can start at the age of two with ordinary balloons. By throwing them back and forth with simple movements you teach your kids to co-ordinate their movements. Start with the hands and then with their feet."

For kids between two and six, Ali uses soft balls and creates a basis for more advanced programs.

"You can start with a ball and then expand to two or three balls. From age six, it's time to focus more on the sports, to teach the kids to use their skills and make them goal-oriented. Tennis training is a good basis for all sports. I like to use new technologies, such as a digital camera in my work,"

Ali explains that an American survey clearly shows the difference in motor skills between kids who have been trained since an early age and those who have not. The latter often have problems with their movement

patterns which results in the body's muscles being used incorrectly and can lead to physical injuries.

"The mental aspect of training is equally important. Kids who start to learn body skills early know how to use their muscles and adopt a tougher mental attitude, which will serve them in all paths of life," Ali concludes "that's why the program has to be designed to be both informative and fun." ■



motivar a sus alumnos en una atmósfera divertida y relajada, un centro de entrenamiento muy profesional tanto para adultos como para niños.

"He trabajado con niños durante 30 años y me encanta ver cómo desarrollan sus habilidades motoras desde muy pequeños", dice. "Se les puede enseñar desde muy pequeños, jugando... incluso en tu sala de estar. Puedes empezar desde los dos años, basta con unos globos... Tirándolos hacia delante y hacia atrás, con juegos simples le estás enseñando a coordinar sus movimientos. Empezamos con las manos y seguimos con los pies". Para los niños entre dos y seis años, Ali usa bolas blandas creando una base para los programas más avanzados.

"Se puede empezar con una bola y luego ir ampliando con dos o tres. A partir de los seis años, es el momento de centrarse más en el

determinadas. El Tenis es una buena base para todos los deportes. Me gusta usar las nuevas tecnologías, tales como la cámara digital en mi trabajo"

Ali explica que un estudio americano muestra claramente la diferencia en las habilidades motoras entre los niños que han entrenado correctamente desde una edad temprana y los que no lo han hecho. Estos últimos suelen tener problemas en su forma de moverse lo que se traduce en el uso incorrecto de los músculos y puede conducir a lesiones físicas.

"El aspecto mental del entrenamiento es igualmente importante. Los niños que aprenden a usar correctamente su cuerpo, saben cómo funcionan sus músculos y adoptan una actitud mental más dinámica, que les servirá en muchos aspectos de la vida". Ali concluye que "Por eso el programa tiene que estar diseñado para ser informativo y divertido". ■

Ali tiene excelentes habilidades de comunicación y lo mas importante; un gran sentido para la diversión. Dirige un equipo de