

OZZIE SMITH DRILL

DRILL SET-UP

- Have the infielder on their knees about 20-40 feet away from the coach (spacing depends on age/ability)
- The fielder should have throwing hand behind their back with glove out in front and open in a ready position.
- The coach then hits short hop ground balls to the fielder (for younger ages, throw it underhand).
- The fielder catches the ball and then releases it to their right or left and quickly gets ready for the next one.
- This should be done in a rapid-fire sequence. Make sure the fielder has rhythm with the coach/feeder and is ready. More advanced older players will be able to handle a quicker pace.
- Do sets of 25-40 at a time, then switch to the next player waiting.

COACHING DISCUSSIONS

- Make sure the fielder is extending the glove hand out at all times towards the ball creating the shortest hop possible.
- After they catch the ball, have them “freeze” the glove for a split second--you do not want the fielders to get in the habit of just swiping at the ball to get ready for the next one.
- This is a glove control and hand-eye drill. Good posture and form are important.
- At the moment they field the ball, make sure their head is down and you, as the coach, can see the button on the top of the hat.