

Olivia & Gramps



My wife and I drove up to Kansas City last weekend to watch the Super Bowl with my son and daughter in law, and pay a visit to our newest granddaughter, two year-old Olivia.

The Super Bowl was a disappointment. Olivia was not.

I enjoyed Olivia's antics as we played in the ball pit together (not an easy in-and-out for a boomer, by the way). She gave me a bunch of "high 5's" and one big hug. She shot me the eyeball when I terrorized her father by punching him on the arm, in the stomach, and on the top of his head (it's how I tell him I love him). This was before her Dad told me that one of the rules in the house was "no hitting!"

I bought her first ball glove and we played our first game of catch. We chased each other around the basement. We went to an aquarium

and then watched *Nemo* (a movie I do not quite understand). We watched parts of *Mulan 2* at least three times, then I listened as Olivia sang the soundtrack with her Dad. They both knew all the words.

On the long drive home, it occurred to me that Olivia and I have more in common than a bloodline. What does a 67 year-old man have in common with a two year-old toddler? Let me tell you.

1. Olivia gets cranky if she doesn't have her afternoon nap. So do I.
2. Both of us ignore authority and pretty much do what we want.
3. We both mumble. Neither listens.
4. We both get food all over us when we eat.

5. We both love our mom and dad.
6. We both think we are in charge, but in reality, we are not.
7. We both get ready for bed at 8:00 pm and are asleep by 9.
8. We both scream and cry in the middle of the night for no apparent reason.
9. We both ramble, and when we do, people shake their heads and give us the benefit of the doubt.
10. We both fall down if we move too fast.

Of course, we also have our differences. Olivia's hair is coming in, mine is falling out. Olivia is adorable, I now look like Mr. Magoo. Olivia is delightful to be around, I'm just annoying. Olivia is instantly entertaining; I'm instantly exasperating. Olivia's brain is a sponge for information, I've forgotten almost everything I ever learned. To sum up, Olivia is taking off, while I'm in descent mode.

But the biggest difference between my granddaughter and I, and of this I am certain, is that Olivia will fly higher than I ever did.

Exactly as it should be.

It was a great weekend. We'll be back.

That's all I'm sayin'

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