

Dads for Life 2022



MY DAUGHTER AND I WENT FOR THE DADS FOR LIFE (DFL) EVENT AT CHIJ TOA PAYOH ON 3 SEPTEMBER 2022. THE WEATHER WAS GREAT, AND THE TURNOUT WAS SURPRISINGLY GOOD; WITH MORE THAN 80 PARTICIPANTS. MY DAUGHTER, BEING THE SOCIAL BUTTERFLY SHE IS, IMMEDIATELY RECOGNIZED SEVERAL SCHOOLMATES AND EX-CLASSMATES. I HAD THE CHANCE TO BUMP INTO SEVERAL OLD ACQUAINTANCES THAT I HAVE NOT SEEN IN MANY YEARS. SMALL WORLD, I GUESS.



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WE WERE EXPECTING THE USUAL TELE-MATCH GAMES TO PACK THE SATURDAY MORNING, BUT THE DFL TEAM MANAGED TO ORGANIZE ATYPICAL ACTIVITIES THAT WERE WELL THOUGHT OUT TO ENSURE THAT EACH FATHER-DAUGHTER PAIR (AND IN SOME CASES, ONE FATHER TO MANY DAUGHTERS!) HAD TO COOPERATE TO MEET THE OBJECTIVE OF THE GAMES. IN MOST INSTANCES, THE ACTIVITIES INVOLVED FATHERS LISTENING AND FOLLOWING THE INSTRUCTIONS OF THE DAUGHTERS, I GUESS FOR MANY OF US DADS, THIS WAS A REVERSE MIMIC OF REAL LIFE E.G.



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- A) BLINDFOLDED DADS FOLLOWING THE INSTRUCTIONS OF THE GIRLS TO FERRY A WET SPONGE FROM ONE END OF THE FIELD TO FILL A BUCKET AT THE OTHER END
- B) DAUGHTERS INSTRUCTING DADS TO DRAW A PICTURE FROM THE FEEL OF TRACING THE IMAGE ON THE BACK OF THE DAD
- C) A SOCCER GAME WHERE DAUGHTERS INSTRUCT THE BLINDFOLDED DADDY GOALKEEPERS ON HOW TO SAVE THE BALL



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I FOUND THE SOCCER GAME PARTICULARLY ENGAGING. THE RULES WERE SUCH THAT ONLY DAUGHTERS WERE ALLOWED IN THE PENALTY AREA TO SCORE GOALS, AND FATHERS COULD ONLY STAY AROUND THE MID-FIELD TO SUPPORT THE GIRLS AND PASS THEM THE BALL. THE GOALKEEPER AT EACH END WOULD BE A BLIND-FOLDED DADDY, WHOSE ONLY GUIDE TO DEFENDING AGAINST AN ONCOMING "ATTACK" WAS HIS DAUGHTER'S DIRECTIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS. THE ENERGY AND ENTHUSIASM OF THE DADS LED TO A FAIR BIT OF FRENETIC ACTION.



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THIS ACTIVITY ALSO ALLOWED DADS TO DEMONSTRATE GRACIOUSNESS AND SPORTSMANSHIP IN ENSURING THAT EVERYONE HAD FUN WITH THE GAME.

FOR THE INSIGNIFICANT REGISTRATION FEE, THE EVENT INCLUDED REFRESHMENTS, LUNCH AND PRIZES! FOR SOME STRANGE REASON, THE ODDLY SHAPED RABBIT THAT I ENDED DRAWING UNDER MY DAUGHTER'S TUTELAGE IN THE SECOND ACTIVITY SNAGGED HER A USEFUL AND PRACTICAL FITBIT THAT CONTINUES TO INSPIRE HER HEALTHY EXERCISE HABITS. ALL IN ALL, I MUST SAY THAT THE MEMORY AND BONDING OF THAT SATURDAY WILL STAY WITH US FOR QUITE A WHILE.



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