

Introducing our newest monthly feature...

What's the *Big Deal* with . . .

...Big Richard Epstein?

THE DEAL: Richard has been matched with Little Sage for 6 months.

1. What do you love being about a Big?

For me, being a Big is like being a grandpa. I get to share what I love to do...bike riding, beach walking, shop projects, ice cream cone eating and get to hang out with an energetic, funny, smart, Little Brother.

2. How do you stay involved with your Little?

Sage and I try to get together every week. We decide together what to do when we meet up. We both love being outdoors so beach walks in the cold and the rain are still fun for us.

3. What's the best life advice you've been given?

"FORGIVE, PRACTICE COMPASSION and LOVE yourself as you practice towards others." I call these three my "Golden Coins." It was given to me by a great teacher.

4. What match event are you most looking forward to?

Sage and I (along with another Big and Little) were given great tickets to a Mariner's game for the end of August. I am looking forward to hanging out at Safeco Field with Sage and buddies.

5. What is your favorite match memory?

I have several great memories of time with Sage - he is such a little pistol. One that usually gets a laugh is about playing tag with him on the playground at Freeland park.

I was reluctant to try to keep up with him. But he talked me into it and once I got started I was feeling fast, fit and was actually catching him on occasion and avoiding him on others. I was scrambling around the playground equipment feeling very 'athletic' (not like my real age of 60). At one point I shortcutted down a small slide to evade Sage and when I jumped to the ground my left hip twisted and I went down like a stone.

I was laying on the ground in pain groaning and moaning, not wanting to move, just wanting to lay there for a while...Sage ran up and tagged me and told me I was 'it'. Then he started yelling at me, "Get up old man! Get up!"

He was being so authentically himself - full of life and energy Sage. I couldn't help but laugh at my own predicament. Fortunately, my hip healed up pretty well and I still crack up when I think of his response. It seems like each time we get together I have another great memory.

