We All Need to Play

Just This One Time!
Concepción Saravia

When I was a child, I liked playing with dolls, but I mostly enjoyed being the pitcher on my baseball team. We would play other teams from towns that were close to our little town. Practice was so important. We would practice at recess every day so that we would feel confident about ourselves. We never lost a game.

I always felt proud of myself and my teammates after every game. When I first started playing, I had no experience. However, our coach told me that I had a talent for pitching. I worked so hard to improve and to compete. Sometimes my mother didn’t want me to go to the games, so my teacher would send her a note asking for permission. My mother would always reply, “Yes, but just this one time.” Nevertheless, my constant begging proved to be a success because she almost always let me play.

When I’d come home from the games, I could tell that she wasn’t really interested in baseball, but deep down, I know that she was proud of me for improving my skills. Baseball was my favorite sport. If you’ve never had a favorite sport, I hope you try something new. It made my childhood so much better.

Concepción Saravia is an ESL student at the Fort Smith Adult Education Center in Fort Smith, Arkansas. She came to the U.S. from El Salvador in 2003. She enjoys spending time with her husband, son, and two daughters.

AFTER YOU READ:

1. According to the text, what are some of the ways baseball made Concepción’s life better?

2. Note how the author uses “nevertheless” in the second paragraph. What does it mean?

3. Have sports made your life better? Explain.