

Transcript

Wynne Leon

Welcome to the sharing the heart of the matter podcasts where we celebrate authors, storytellers and creators. I'm Wynne Leon, and in this episode, Vicki Atkinson and I are delighted to be with my five year old son Mr. D. Mr. D is so excited about starting on a Little League team that he asked to podcast about it, which is saying something because he's not as naturally valuable as his older sister. I'm clearly biased about our guest, but in my opinion, listening to the enthusiasm of a kid excited about a team, a sport, and the crack of the ball against a bat stirs the well of our own passions. Mr. D shows us all the equipment necessary for Little League, including my favorite the bubble gum. We talk about the magic that often happens when we go to Major League ball games, Vicki tells us about the ballparks and teams in Chicago. This podcast meanders a bit as we ride along with a young and curious guest, but he brings it all together with an incredible answer. When Vicki asked him what he likes best a little bit before minute 17 in the recording. We also included a little Easter egg at the end at minute 19. Mr. D shows you don't have to know how to spell in order to capture hearts. Join us as we explore the scenic and beautiful places we go when we tell baseball stories. You won't want to miss this heartwarming and refreshing perspective of five year old Mr. D we know you'll love it. Hi Mr. D.

Mr. D

Hi.

Wynne Leon

Vicki and I are so excited to have you on the podcast.

Vicki Atkinson

Oh my gosh, we're.

Wynne Leon

So excited. Yeah. Do you remember what we wanted to talk about today?

Mr. D

Baseball.

Wynne Leon

Baseball. Yes. Because you know, it's the start of of baseball season. And you did your first Little League practice last night, didn't you?

Mr. D

I can tell you guys all about it. What just the ones that I remember. What?

Vicki Atkinson

OK, hello.

Wynne Leon

Yeah.

Mr. D

One person is named Cooper.

Wynne Leon

Which is. Player player that has the same name as our dog.

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah, yeah, yeah. I love that. And did Mr. D You said that it was kind of far away where you had to go to play baseball, right?

Wynne Leon

Yeah. And then what? What happened? You met someone named Cooper. And tell us what happened next.

Mr. D

So next I found a lot of people have names, but I can't remember.

Wynne Leon

Yeah.

Mr. D

So like I got one hit and then I went to the place and then when they hit the others.

Wynne Leon

Yeah.

Mr. D

And when I was like hitting the box and it's only thing that goes up and like you hit it once I hit it out of the fence. Wow.

Wynne Leon

You hit it really far, didn't you?

Vicki Atkinson

That's amazing. I want to make sure I understood. It was your first time at Little League and you got a hit and you got on a.

Mr. D

Food.

Wynne Leon

Wow, that's amazing. But I mean and and and Mr. Deegan tell you that we've done a lot of practicing, haven't we? Yeah. Yeah. So, yeah.

Mr. D

So much but 100,000.

Wynne Leon

Probably I think so. I think so. We not only we've hit.

Mr. D

No, no, we didn't count.

Wynne Leon

No, we didn't count. But we've not only hit baseballs, but we've hit tennis balls we've hit. Rocks with pieces of wood at the beach. We have practice swinging and hitting things for a lot of years, yeah.

Mr. D

Yeah. Can I tell you something? Really good thrower.

Wynne Leon

What?

Vicki Atkinson

Isn't she, though? Yeah, she told me she's also good at chasing the balls we used to call that shagging the balls.

Wynne Leon

One of that's still true above. Has gotten harder.

Mr. D

Can I? Can I show you my stuff?

Wynne Leon

Yeah, we are dying to see. Yeah.

Mr. D

So this is my glove with the ball.

Wynne Leon

And you can see the baseball player right in the middle of that. Mitt. Yeah, I like it.

Mr. D

And like one person from baseball, they're like digging with their glove and like, and also, I didn't start. And then she stopped. Can I show you my name?

Vicki Atkinson

Oh yeah, can I ask you a question about your baseball gloves before you show us the next thing? Do you are you left-handed or right-handed? Which hand do you put your glove on?

Mr. D

I'll hear you.

Wynne Leon

Yeah, show me.

Vicki Atkinson

Mr. D is right-handed. Ah, gotcha. OK, so you know how baseball players they like play with their glove to make it feel like it fits just right. Does yours feel like it fits just right already? Yeah.

Mr. D

Not this case. It's so good.

Wynne Leon

Oh, OK, I like it. OK, keep going. Good stuff.

Mr. D

So I have a lot of. Should I show you? Mm-hmm. Yeah. This is my helmet. Ohh yes, I'm it says. Can you tell where it says?

Wynne Leon

Victor victors. Mm-hmm. Hey.

Vicki Atkinson

That's kind of like my name, yeah.

Mr. D

Finish your mind.

Wynne Leon

Back to put your helmet on for us, put on your batting helmet. Let's see. Yeah. Because those are important. You gotta protect your head. Oh yeah. Nice. And it's still just you good visibility for the batting. Uh-huh. And there's an ear, there's the back. Fantastic. Mm-hmm. That looks good, yeah.

Mr. D

It's big. My metal back.

Wynne Leon

Wow.

Vicki Atkinson

So the question about that is that the same bat you've been using all the times you've been practicing or is it something new that you got just for a Little League?

Mr. D

Uhm. I tried it for Little League. Hmm.

Wynne Leon

I like it. We've been practicing with this for about a month. OK.

Mr. D

USA right here.

Vicki Atkinson

Hmm. I like it. Yeah. So I have another question. Did you give your bat a name yet? Does he have a name?

Mr. D

I don't know what you mean.

Wynne Leon

Hmm, that would be, yeah.

Mr. D

What's color you Little League, Little League?

Wynne Leon

Little League. OK, OK, that works. That's a good, yeah. Now Mr. D There was one other piece of equipment that you said that I couldn't, UM, have anymore.

Mr. D

Oh yeah, one more thing, the last one.

Wynne Leon

Yep, Yep. Yeah. Oh, oh oh. Oh, that's a really important supply. All the good ball players have to have their bubble gum. Wow. So your mom told me you had, like, a a little stash of gum in the pantry. I didn't know it was a whole tub. Yeah, I want 1 so bad. I know it's so. Good. Ohh, and that's when he said that I couldn't have anymore because he said it was all reserved for baseball.

Mr. D

Then if you want to.

Wynne Leon

I can. Oh yeah, because it is the best. It's the best bubble gum.

Mr. D

I never said that.

Wynne Leon

You didn't. OK, I must have misunderstood. Hmm. I don't know. Yeah, it's bubble gum. It's. And how did you know that baseball players like to chew bubble gum. How did you figure that out?

Mr. D

Like. She's she's like. She likes nice a lot.

Wynne Leon

That's good.

Mr. D

Should I show marshmallows?

Wynne Leon

Oh, let's do marshmallows in a little bit, because I I yeah. Looks like he has hers.

Mr. D

1st. Yeah, I know that.

Wynne Leon

Yeah, it's our thing. Right, Mr. T, do you like baseball because you have all the equipment, or is there something else about baseball that you really like?

Mr. D

Weights. What's that? Yeah, yeah.

Wynne Leon

Please. Ohh yes. Yes yes.

Mr. D

That's the important thing. If you don't have it, you would slip.

Wynne Leon

Yeah. Yeah. Do you like the sound that they make when you're walking, like, on the regular floor? Because it sounds like you're a tap dancer, I think.

Mr. D

The best part to me. And like I make a lot of friends like Cooper.

Wynne Leon

Yeah. Yeah, making friends. That's a good part. Yeah. What's another good part?

Mr. D

So like. Another thing is the pants. The jersey the hat. But for my baseball game I can't have this, only for my bigger games.

Wynne Leon

Oh OK. I want to know about your pants and your jersey. What color are they? Because your bat is red. Your helmet looks kind of blue or black. What's your?

Mr. D

And smart, not inner dirty yet. Yeah, but they don't give us one day.

Wynne Leon

Yeah. We don't have to have it. OK. Yeah. OK.

Mr. D

I'm doing my kiddo today.

Wynne Leon

Oh, that's so good.

Speaker

For it.

Mr. D

Invite shooting.

Wynne Leon

Yeah, yeah, yeah. But if you want to be a really good athlete at baseball, all those other things that you do playing with mom and with Miss O and with your other friends, all those things being active, even going swimming like you did over the weekend, right, all those things make you a better baseball player.

Mr. D

Yeah, there was a long time ago. I I remember. Yeah, yeah.

Wynne Leon

You have a good memory you. You notice a lot of things. Yeah. Yeah, you too. And what's your coaches name for baseball?

Mr. D

I can't. I don't remember.

Wynne Leon

Yara.

Mr. D

Sara.

Wynne Leon

Yeah.

Mr. D

Coach.

Wynne Leon

Was was she excited when you got a hit yesterday?

Mr. D

Sarah. I don't know.

Wynne Leon

I bet.

Mr. D

There was other coaches, there was a lot of coaches, right? That's what that's that's what. That's cool. James is my name and it's a side word at my school.

Wynne Leon

That's. Right. It. Cool. Wow. Wow. Wow.

Mr. D

I lost 2 teeth right here. Ohh, you're growing a lot bigger.

Wynne Leon

Yeah, that girl, Becky. That's good. Well, I have another baseball question for you. Are you ready? Yeah. OK, so I think. Last summer, you guys went to at least one Mariners game, right? Do you remember?

Mr. D

Ohh no, it was so long time ago.

Wynne Leon

Now. OK. Yeah, hot that day we rode the train down there. And it was oh.

Mr. D

Number number now. Do you?

Wynne Leon

Yeah, but. Well, here's my question. What was the best thing that you remember about going to that really big baseball game? Do you remember anything they were like, wow.

Mr. D

Oh, the person hitting the ball. But I couldn't really see it.

Speaker

Yeah.

Mr. D

Yeah. I'm like the only person there, seeing it with mom and all of the things that I have at my schools and people that I know that would be so awesome, you would like being next to me.

Wynne Leon

Yeah, that would be fun. Yeah, well, maybe if you're really nice and really sweet to your mom, maybe you'll get to go to another Mariners game and get to go, like down close to, like, the dugout. You know, because sometimes baseball players are so nice. They love all the new guys like you and girls that are playing baseball. They want to encourage you, so you might get to meet some of those players.

Mr. D

Tell you something, yes.

Wynne Leon

Oh, that's all the sports right there. That's a good bookmark.

Mr. D

Which ones not all of the sports, yeah.

Wynne Leon

What's missing? Hmm. I see volleyball.

Mr. D

The sports see. Yeah, that's good.

Wynne Leon

Yeah, you know, they they have a volleyball. I think that's a soccer ball, miss.

Vicki Atkinson

Vicky. Oh, OK. Gotcha.

Wynne Leon

Faith.

Mr. D

Well.

Wynne Leon

And I think that we brought that.

Mr. D

R and there is a tiny R that you can.

Wynne Leon

Ohh yeah, when we went to that Mariners game, we went to the pitching dugout with the pitchout warming up, and we were sitting there before the game. The pictures were warming up and there was this nice 20 something couple next to us and one of the pitches went off and and came up and they caught it. Or maybe. I don't know whether the picture flipped it or or they just caught it and they handed it to Mr. D. Wow. Then you know, right?

Magical things happen at the ballpark. You just never know what's going to happen. Yeah, yeah.

Mr. D

Something.

Wynne Leon

Yeah, sure. Wait a minute. Which one of you is when? I don't know who's who. Where? Where did you go, Mr. D?

Mr. D

This guy right here off.

Wynne Leon

Oh here. Should I put my glasses on? Well, you know, it's me.

Mr. D

Ohm I I don't recognize.

Wynne Leon

See. See. There we go. We're all in disguise now. Now, Mr. T has his on too.

Mr. D

My family recognize the one below. I remembered it. I don't recognize the 1 and I know the one on the.

Wynne Leon

Oh yeah. Yeah. Yeah, that wearing your mom's glasses? Does that make your? Eye is a little fuzzy.

Mr. D

The funniest thing that I can do is pretty hard.

Wynne Leon

When it's oh.

Vicki Atkinson

Well, now we're going to do funny faces. I don't know if I can beat that one. I don't know that he he Mr. D is really good at that. That are good. And he's got many skills. It's not just baseball and and hitting.

Mr. D

It's also basketball and the others.

Vicki Atkinson

Like football. Yeah. Yeah, that's good. That's good. And does Cooper help you at all play baseball, or does he just want to take the ball away from you because he likes to steal all your stuff? That's what I've heard.

Mr. D

MMMM. Sometimes he steals like UM. Oh.

Wynne Leon

Socks.

Mr. D

Dogs and baseballs, and not the bases, even the soft.

Wynne Leon

Yeah, yeah, we found a bat the other day that Cooper had chewed. It was one of the foam bats. One of Mr. Dees earlier bats. Not the metal bats that he has now. Thank goodness we've kept safe. But he. But you know, most of the phone was missing from that. That courtesy of Cooper. So. Cooper doesn't get to participate in batting practice any longer. No. Well, especially, I heard Cooper had, like, a big throw up recently, so maybe.

Mr. D

He's he's this big hole right here.

Wynne Leon

Yeah, I do.

Mr. D

You can put your middle finger on top of it like this.

Wynne Leon

Mm-hmm. Yeah, that's right. It's yeah.

Mr. D

If you want to have a hole in it that you can put your finger up easily.

Wynne Leon

Yeah.

Mr. D

This club is easier for it.

Wynne Leon

Yeah. And you know, your glove is going to get dirty. I'm looking at all those, like, really nice looking white strings in your glove. They're going to get dirty, and that's cool. That is so cool.

Mr. D

I wish one day we can live at your place for like 2 days, OK?

Vicki Atkinson

Tell mom. Hop in the car. It's kind of a long drive, but yeah, a little further than to get to baseball.

Wynne Leon

Yeah, that would be fun to go visit and you know. Vicki lives near some very iconic baseball fields. Wrigley Field being one of them, is that and where did the Cubs play? Wrigley Field. Oh, they do? Yeah.

Vicki Atkinson

The White Sox play there too, or no. They have their own park. OK, yeah, yeah. The old days, it was chemistry. Yeah. OK. That's a different name, you know? But that's, you know, in Chicago, we're very picky about our who we.

Mr. D

So.

Wynne Leon

Or. You know fans for right.

Vicki Atkinson

And can I ask you a question? Is it OK with you if we share part of our podcasts with you with our friend Rick, who writes books about baseball? Is that OK? Can we tell him about you?

Mr. D

Yeah.

Wynne Leon

OK. Do you want to say hi? To Rick, yeah. Yeah. Tell tell Rick what the best thing is about baseball.

Mr. D

OK, I know.

Wynne Leon

What is it?

Mr. D

When you hit the ball. And you go to the base and the one that goes and hit it. The funniest thing is to run to. The other base.

Wynne Leon

So fun, right?

Mr. D

Yeah.

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah. And are people cheering for you when you're running? Sometimes. Are they happy for you? And a couple of times? Yeah. Oh, Mr. D My favorite podcast ever.

Mr. D

Yeah. And mom?

Wynne Leon

Right. So was it fun for you to do this? Do you want?

Mr. D

To do it again, uh yeah. Somebody else want to do Little League, OK? Probably probably when I finish it literally.

Vicki Atkinson

That sounds good. That sounds good. Yeah, we'll make sure you tell Cooper I said hello and I'll blow you guys.

Mr. D

Covering my baseball game. That Little League.

Wynne Leon

Yeah. Yeah, that's exciting, right. And then I want to know if Cooper gets. To meet. Cooper, right? Yeah, that'll be.

Mr. D

Oh yeah. That one.

Wynne Leon

Biting. But I'm gonna blow you big kisses. And here I'm going to give you one marshmallow for the road. Right. Thanks for the gum. Are you? Ready. Here comes. Did you get?

Mr. D

It ohh 1 go.

Wynne Leon

What was amazing? Love you guys. Love you, Vicky. Thanks. So good, alright. Yeah. Thanks for doing the podcast, Mr. D. Bye, you said good.

Speaker

Bye.

Wynne Leon

Thank you for listening. Our music is composed for sharing the heart of the matter by the exclusively talented duo of Jack Canfora and Rob Koenig for show notes and more great inspiration, please visit our site at [sharingtheheartofthe. Matter.com](http://sharingtheheartofthe.Matter.com). Full sun, right?

Mr. D

How do you spell happy?

Wynne Leon

Z.

Mr. D

Yeah, I did. That.

Wynne Leon

I/O. No, not OI. Are you ready?

Mr. D

Ohh I he I is it VI? Yeah.

Wynne Leon

I was being silly. The big high. Yep. And then give me AC.

Mr. D

You didn't see.

Wynne Leon

You did. Can you do a K?

Mr. D

Is it all? How much left is? OK.

Wynne Leon

Two more letters. K and then an I, another I.

Mr. D

Her moms name. I'm just doing Wen, OK? OK. I love Nikki.

Wynne Leon

That's good.

Mr. D

And oh, it's so perfect, I. Like looking and.

Wynne Leon

When it's so perfect, I love that your mom's going to have to put that in an envelope and take it to the post office and mail it.

Mr. D

3/3.

Wynne Leon

To me. We do that, didn't we? Yeah, I love that.

Mr. D

Can I can I can I give it to MOM right now?

Wynne Leon

Yeah, you can give him. Give it to MOM. That'd be fine. Sweet. Oh my gosh. D are you all done talking about baseball? I think he's coming into this camera. Oh, he is OK. Ah, there you are. Ohh he he was doing a special delivery that is so good. Oh my gosh. Yeah, I didn't have the heart to tell him. You can spell my name any way you want because it's sort of up for grabs, right? My goodness, the littlest podcaster in your house is quite. Yes, yes, he is a very good podcaster. I think we're going to have to say, OK.