



The Blind Eye and the Worrywart

A MinneStory

Nicole and Travis, parents to two girls with cystic fibrosis, talk about their different approaches for parenting. They talk about the girls' unique personality traits that help them tackle this condition along with their son's determination to cure CF for his sisters.



Travis: I sometimes almost turn a blind eye to the fact that they even have it. I don't want them to be treated special or different. They get punished the same way, they still take the same time outs and everything, there's no special treatment, and it's almost...maybe it is because we're... been treating for so long and we've been fortunate that they've been so healthy that I don't even recognize the illness almost because of that. I'm sure there'll be a day where we'll inevitably, everyone with CF has told us, that you're gonna have some of those days where it's gonna be hospital stays and that, but...so it might hit us a little harder at that time, but right now, it's definitely ignorance is bliss and I'm just enjoying it to the fullest with these little girls.

Nicole: I think I probably am a little different in that aspect. You do more of the blind eye, and I'm more the worrywart. Like we have to tell them they can't do that, but try to do it a different way, like leaves, playing in leaves in the fall. It's like my biggest fear. And Travis is more...you're more the 'Yeah, just go play and be kids...'

Travis: Enjoy life still a little bit...

Nicole: Yeah, but, let's put a mask on when we do it, or let's just not make...

Travis: ...make sure Mom's not there...

Nicole: ...let's just not make such a big leaf pile, because they can't do everything that their friends can do. Even though we want them to there are going to be limitations, and being aware of those limitations is important so that they can stay healthy for longer. I think that's where we differ a little bit.

Travis: Yep. We definitely do. No it is...you watch it, you still watch it, and it's probably good to have that protagonist/antagonist approach, because otherwise they'd be living in a bubble if it was you, and if it was my world they'd be living in a dust storm, and that is the worst thing for them.

Nicole: Yeah.

Travis: So yeah, finding that happy medium is probably the best part of that.

Nicole: What about the girls makes you smile? With Bryn. Start with Bryn.

Travis: You answer Bryn. Bryn challenges us the most. She is our spirited little child. Holy cow! CF is in for a world of hurt with that one, because she's gonna give it a run for it's money.

Nicole: Yeah, and you can kind of see it rubbing off on Vivian, Bryn's personality, that strong personality. Vivian is always watching and learning too, and she just...she does her own thing also. And I think that's going to be a huge advantage for them down the road, and I think the bond that they have with...okay you can be wild and crazy and do what you want, but we still need to do our treatments and we still have to take care of ourselves. And I think that's where having the two of them together is going to be a huge factor in how they are successful with it and beat it.

Travis: Well, there are a thousand things you could say that makes us smile, but as it relates to kind of the CF stuff, even as you roll it up to Cade, he's convinced in life that he's going to be

a scientist that's going to cure this thing, 'cause that's...in his mind as he sees and does this all the time, that's...that's his new goal, 'cause the kids kind of gravitate to what they see. Instead of being a fireman or a police officer, Cade is now going to be a scientist and cure CF. So that's his...it does as it is make you smile, 'cause that is that bond that they are creating.

Nicole: Yeah, I hate when he says that, 'cause it just makes me...(sniff)

Travis: But it is, it does, it makes you smile, 'cause you look at him, if he cares that much about 'em, right now any way. Yeah yeah, they still fight plenty because of Bryn being so strong-willed.

Nicole: But yeah, Cade is saying how he's going to be a scientist and he's gonna help his sisters and care, and we just tell him that would be a HUGE job, and you would be so loved by so many people. You'd help so many families feel so good.

Travis: He's already working on it. He jumps in the spice rack and he's creating these concoctions. Like every kid does that at some point, you're always makin' a potion or whatever, but his are always based on, here drink this Bryn 'cause it's going to fix you. And you're looking on like, oh boy, she's going to eat a cup filled with water, pepper and paprika today.

Nicole: But she does it.

Travis: She gets after it. Tells him how good it is, and she feels better instantly.

Nicole: Yeah, it definitely warms your heart seeing that kind of play taking place.

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