

## Babysitting Blues

Joel and Brie had been dating since school began in the fall. Brie was in all honors classes while Joel just loved to hang out with the guys and play football. Brie loved to go to Joel's games and would always go with a friend who would verbalize the game to her.

One afternoon, Brie called Joel, "Joel, if you are not too busy, would you come over and help me keep my kid brother, Matt?"

"Sure, I believe you said once Matt had vision but also knows how to play games with Braille and large print- thanks to your cool mom and you teaching him," Joel said.

"Joel, be sure you do not mind keeping Matt because he can be a stinker," laughed Brie. "I know he's nine-years-old, but there are times when he acts like he is five-years-old," Brie stated.

Joel grabbed his **large print cards, tennis kit, and basketball** to help entertain Matt.

When Joel arrived at Brie's house, he sent her mother a quick text letting her know he would be with Brie and Matt for most of the afternoon. She was working and did not know he would be babysitting.

Brie answered the door and let Joel in while Matt was hiding behind the door. Brie was giggling when Matt jumped out and yelled, "Boo!" Although Joel secretly knew Matt was behind the door because of his bright red shirt, he pretended to be afraid.

"Matt, would you want to play a **game of tennis with my adaptive kit?**" Joel asked.

"Not at all," Matt beamed. "Let's go now!"

Brie filled up three water bottles and packed a few power bars before they left the house. Last, she grabbed her cane and reminded Joel to get his as well.

Although Joel was athletic, Matt was a little surprised how hard he could hit the tennis ball and how great he was playing tennis. After an hour, Matt was getting tired and wanted to hang around the pond, so Joel, Brie and Matt sat by the water

and tossed rocks into the water listening to the sound of the splashes from pebbles to larger rocks.

After tossing rocks, Joel, Brie and Matt sat under a tree while Joel recited poetry from his favorite poets called, but after ten minutes Matt was getting restless.

“I am ready to do something else now,” Matt whined.

Brie rolled her eyes knowing Matt always had to have several activities to keep him busy. However, Joel was patient and asked Matt to go back home and play a game of Tic-Tac-Toe. However, before they reached home, Joel took Matt and Brie on an adventurous nature walk pointing out so many plants, flowers, sounds and smells that many people miss.

Right before the kids walked onto Brie’s porch Matt had a question.

“Can someone with a visual impairment play **Tic-Tac-Toe**?”

“Matt, you play my game of **Tic-Tac-Toe** with me, so duh!” Brie laughed.

While the guys played the game, Brie made fresh lemonade and chicken salad sandwiches. She added chips and a chocolate chip cookie for each of them.

Before Brie and Matt’s mother came home, Matt had played four games of **Tennis**, a thirty minute nature walk, ten games of **Tic-Tac-Toe** and two movies.

Before Brie’s mom arrived back home, Joel teased Matt.

“I have babysitting blues,” he said as he slightly patted Matt’s arm.

“Was I that bad?” Matt asked.

“Not at all, I am blue or sad because our day is over, however, we will have more fun days to hang out together.” Joel smiled.

“I cannot wait and next time, Joel, let’s go running with the running kit. I think I need it after eating the cookies, sandwich and chips,” Matt laughed hard at himself- he knew he was one funny kid.