

# The race of life

On our Second Valley holiday I watched one of my great-grandsons having foot races with a great-niece. The little boy is a very fast runner, very competitive. But athletics is not the little girl's strong suit, so he easily won every race.

I was amazed then to see him introduce a handicap system! To make the race more even he arranged for the little girl to be ten metres, then fifteen metres, then twenty metres in front of him at the word "Go!"

He was a five year old! How thoughtful to give the little girl more chance of winning. She didn't win, but at least she had more chance.

I then observed the games of some of my other great-grandchildren, and how they coped with winning and losing. For some, their temperaments were such that it wasn't an issue, but some needed help from the grown-ups to process losing games.

That sort of parenting is powerful. It recognises each child's different approach.

Intriguing stuff. I love it! It reminds me yet again how God made each of us unique and special, always wanting us to be the best we can be, not comparing ourselves to others but being content with who we are.

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**“Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.” Hebrews 12.1.**

**Ken Packer**