## Front Yard Memories

Tonight, I stood in our front yard and allowed a few memories to wash over me. I closed my eyes for a moment, and I could almost hear my children (when they were younger) laughing and shouting as we played a hotly contested game of whiffle ball or kickball on a warm Spring evening.

It wasn't that long ago -- or at least it doesn't seem that long ago -- that those three kids were out there whacking the ball, running wildly from home (driveway) to first (front corner of the sidewalk), rounding second (an aluminum pie pan), and stretching to reach 3rd base (a persimmon tree)! It was great fun, and it brings a smile to my face even now.

I remember there were many days I did not really feel like playing -- I was tired from a long day at work, but I always knew there would come a time when those yard games would be a distant memory. I guess that is where I am now. No matter how tired I was, I always felt better after having spent some fun time playing with the kids -- I never regretted it for a second!

Parents of young children... take time to play with your kids! Consider it an investment -- in them, and in you!

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