

First Impressions

It is good to have friends. Although you can make friends everywhere, sometimes it can be hard. Especially if you change schools or just moved. You should be friendly even when people don't want to be friendly right away. You have to focus on positive things. This is my story of how I made a lot of friends at a new fencing school.

I had fenced for two years, but our family moved and now I had to attend a different fencing school in Fairfax, Va. In May 2016, my sister and I went to the Sports Fencing Academy and knew almost no one there. The first day didn't go too well. I took a class with a coach I really didn't like. One time in class, my sister and I beat the opposite team, and two girls (who looked like identical twins) from that side stared at us in a mean way. I felt like a deflated balloon. Two questions bothered me. Would all coaches be just like that one? Would all kids act as strangely hostile as the girls today? I hoped the whole school would not be like this.

I told my mom what happened and wondered if we should quit the school or not. "Try taking more classes, maybe the kids will act nicer when they get to know you," she answered and hugged me. I always trust my mom, and so I hoped everything would be okay. I really liked fencing and didn't want to quit. Quitting now? Wouldn't they think I was a loser? That is not the way of a good fencer!

After a few more classes, I didn't see those girls anymore (I think they quit the school) and other kids began acting friendlier. First, August and Alex, two brothers, asked me if I wanted to fence them. Why not? We had a good fight. It was close, but I won. August and Alex didn't have a problem losing. We shook hands and chatted while watching other fencers on the strip. I felt happy to make friends with the brothers. Every Friday night the school hosted a local competition called The Fight Night. I think because my sister and I were new to the school, it was easy for us to win the first fights, because no one was used to our techniques. However, now that I look back, I realize that our technique was very bad then. We had a lot to learn. We ended up getting two excellent coaches, too. There were also many birthday parties at the school and it helped us meet new fencers. We ended up making a lot of good friends there. It was sad to leave the academy this summer.

I knew that making friends isn't always easy. Sometimes you just have to keep trying. Last year I learned to not give up if the first impression is not a good one.