



practice

Celia couldn't wait for the first day of baseball practice. She tried on her uniform the night before and would have slept in it if her mother hadn't made her hang it up. She had never been a part of a team before, but had seen kids playing baseball in the movies and was sure it would be easy and fun.

"What's your name kid?" asked a boy with a big wad of chewing gum in his mouth.

"Celia."

"Well, Celia, hope you're a good fly catcher because the coach is going to put you in the outfield. He always does that with the newbies." The boy said around the juicy ball of gum.

"I thought I was going to be catching baseballs."

He looked at her and started laughing, "Fly balls....not flies....You really are a newbie!" The boy slapped his knee as his body shook with laughter.

When the coach put her out in left field, Celia knew what the gum kid had meant. The best batter on the team, Marty, pounded a ball out her way. She watched the ball come toward her at lightning speed. She put her glove up in the air and then watched it swish past like a firework on the Fourth of July.

When Celia trudged in the door of the kitchen after the practice she felt like baseball wouldn't be her sport.

"Mom, I was terrible." She said, grabbing the cookie her mom had put on a plate for her. "How could I have ever thought I would be any good at baseball? I couldn't even catch a fly ball."

"It can't be all that bad."

"It was. All the kids laughed at me."

"Promise me you won't give up. All those other kids were new once too, you know. You aren't very good yet because you haven't had enough practice. This is no different from your piano lessons."

"I'm going to have to play a song out there?"

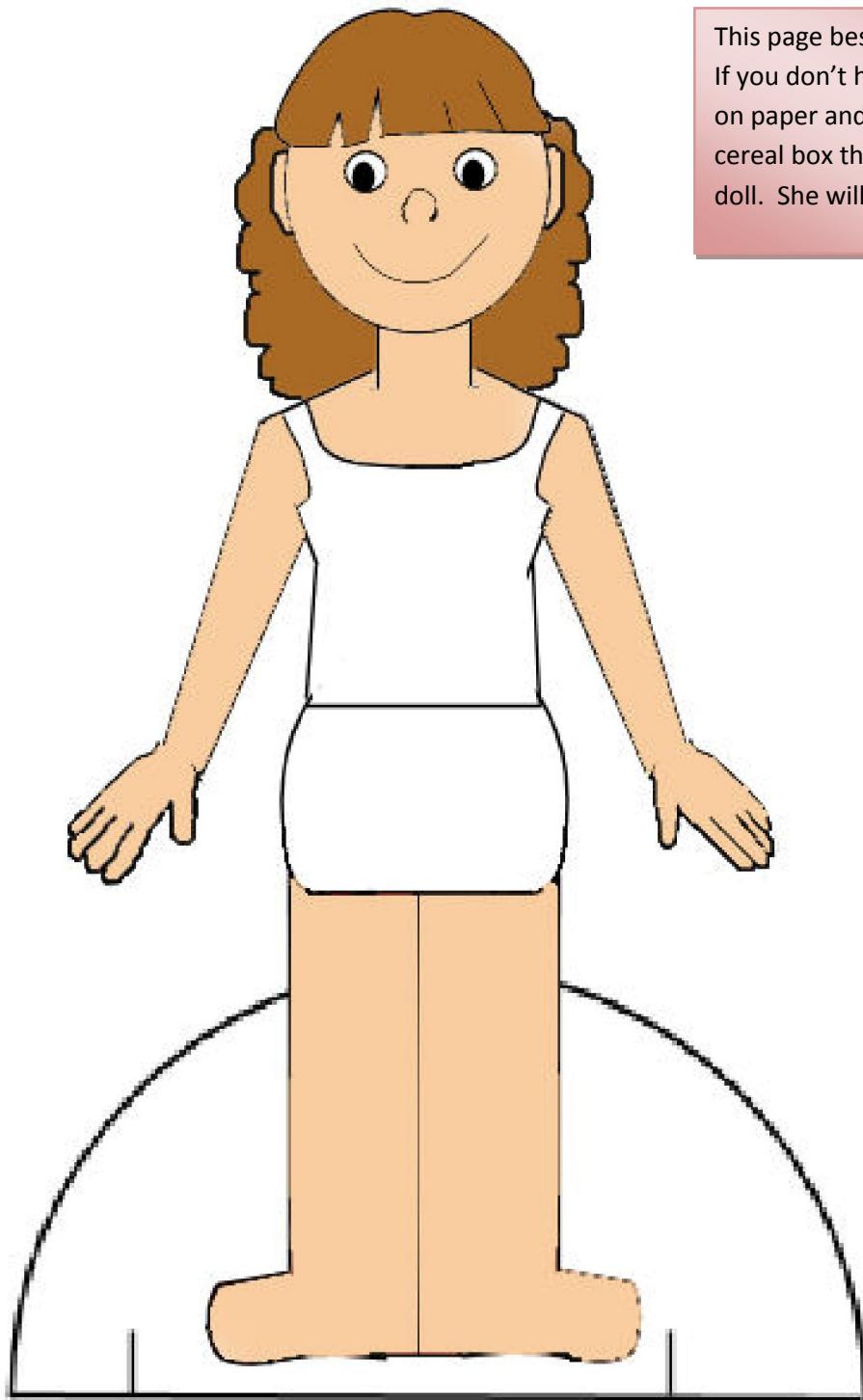
"No, but you are going to have to practice to get good at catching balls, throwing and batting. It just doesn't come to you the first day you play. You couldn't play a song the first day you played piano could you?"

"Well, no, but I didn't know anything yet."

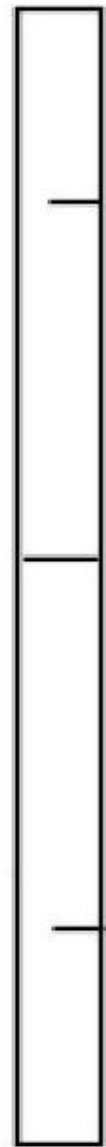
"It's the same thing. Give it some time and work on the skills they teach you."

"OK. I guess, I'll try again tomorrow....and practice, practice, practice."



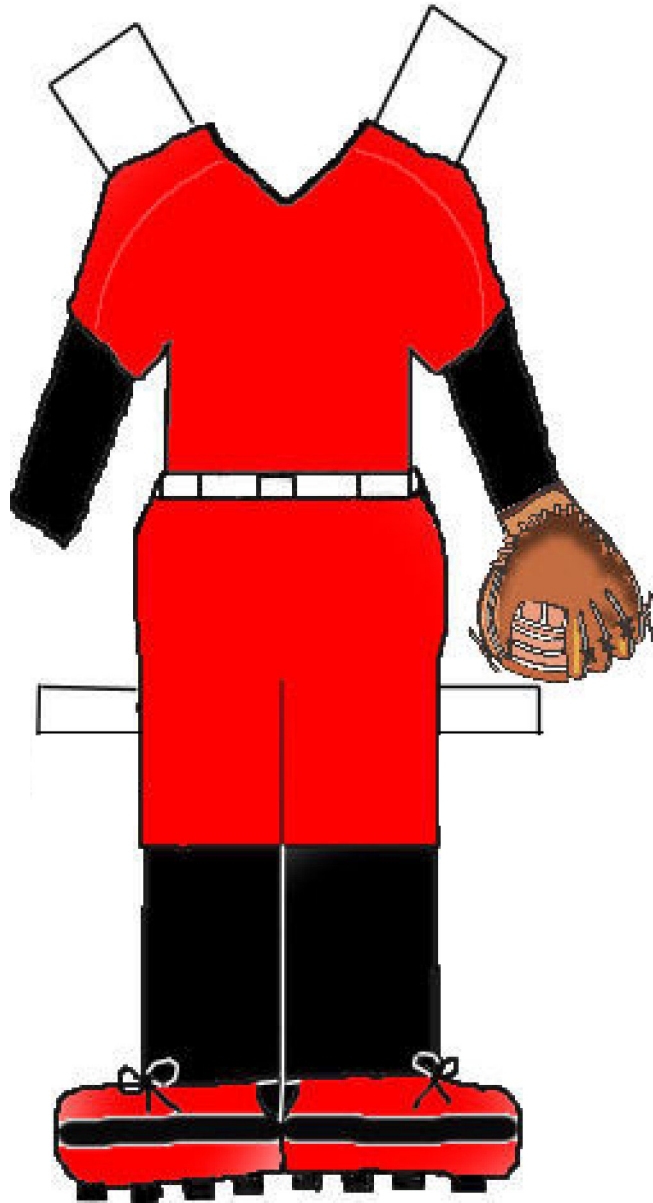


This page best printed on cardstock. If you don't have any, then print this on paper and glue it to the back of a cereal box then cut out your paper doll. She will stand up better.





Print Celia's clothes on paper. Be sure to cut between Celia's shoulder and hair so that you can bend back the tabs on her clothes. Have fun and keep practicing!!



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