Otis and the Second-Place Ribbon

A result is one part of a whole effort.



AGES 4-7 | AN ORIGINAL MIMOMANGO STORY



Otis had practised for the beanbag relay all week. He ran to a marker, carried a soft bag back and passed it carefully to his teammate. He wanted first place.



On sports day, his team ran well. Otis kept inside his lane and made a neat handover. Another team finished just before them. Their ribbon said Second.



Everyone clapped, but Otis stared at the ribbon. "We nearly won," he said. The word nearly felt larger than all the running he had done.



His teammate Liv sat beside him. She was pleased with their clean handovers. Otis was not ready to be pleased. Liv let him be quiet for a while.



Dad brought water. "You hoped for first," he said. Otis nodded. Dad did not tell him he had secretly won or that the other team had been lucky.



When Otis felt ready, they watched the next race. He noticed the waiting, the careful passing and the way runners stayed aware of each other. Winning was not the only thing happening.



He went to the first-place team. "Your handovers were fast," he said. The words felt awkward, then easier. Their captain thanked him and complimented his steady run.



Liv showed him a practice note from Monday: "Remember to stop before passing." Today they had done that every time. Otis could see one real improvement on the page.



He wrote a new note: "Look up sooner before the marker." It was something to practise next time, without needing to make today's ribbon say anything different.



At home, he hung the ribbon beside his shoes. He did not love second place immediately. But he liked remembering Liv's grin and the handover that had gone exactly right.



The following week, they practised again. Otis still wanted to win sometimes. He also wanted to become a steadier teammate. Those wishes could run alongside each other.



Before they began, Liv asked whether he was ready. Otis picked up the beanbag. "Ready," he said. The next run was waiting, and it did not yet have a ribbon.

The End

A little story. A moment to share.

What could Otis feel proud of without changing the result?

Which part of the next race could he practise?

Choose a favourite moment and draw what happened next.

Original story and illustrations created with AI assistance for MimoMango, 2026.