

The Osgood file

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Etiquette Education On The Rise

Thank you for joining us. How good of you to tune in.

There are certain rules of decorum and etiquette that are woefully lacking at the American dinner table nowadays. Mothers and fathers are both a bit tired from a hard days work. What's a mother to do when the kids act up.

Patricia Plonsker, mom with Joey Plonsker, son:

PP: "I let them throw rolls across the table, and reach across,

Joey Plonsker: "or interrupt"

Excuse me please. But children your elbows should not be on the table. And your hands? Where should they be?

Nat sot Syndi Seid's etiquette class :

Student: "Umm."

SS: Hands at your side."

Very good. Across the country now, etiquette schools are popping up to teach such things as table manners.

Syndi Seid, Etiquette Instructor : "There are basically two types of soup-eating vessels. Why aren't these rules already instilled at home? 'cause they're not around, I guess."

Family psychologist Jerrold Shapiro of Santa Clara University. thinks it's a pity that many families today do not gather in a more ceremonious sway at the dinner table.

Jerrold Shapiro, Santa Clara University: "We're losing the teaching aspect of parenting."

But the fact is we don't.

Montana Mirandilla—Etiquette Student/Philip Chuzhbinin, Etiquette student :

MM: "It's like the TV's raging, and then my mom's trying to talk to someone on her phone, and then the cats are eating my dinner."

PC: "There is no family eating, we're always in separate rooms watching TV."

There do have to be some rules even for the pets.

Patricia Plonsker: "It's the only way for him to be able to be with us is for him to understand the rules."

Psychologist Shapiro

Shapiro: "Maybe we need to look at the etiquette classes as a symptom of what we're not doing and considering what we should be doing."

Nat sot from etiquette class:

"Lift up, and eat from the side of the spoon."

Perhaps the real reason parents aren't teaching these things is.

Seid: "Parents aren't as savvy themselves about some of these skills."

Thank you.

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