

Kids Korner



"Mother, meet my friend Elise Pelsinski. Elise, this is my mother Nancy Wiker," said Dana. "Pleased to meet you," Elise responds as she looks Mrs. Wiker in the eye, smiles, and offers her hand.



Dana is aghast as she watches her friend place a whole piece of bread on her plate and then butter it with the butter knife. Bread should always be broken in half before buttering. Use the butter knife to slice off a silver to place on your plate. Never use the butter knife to butter your bread.

Practice Good Manners

LOU ANN GOOD

Lancaster Farming Staff
LITITZ (Lancaster Co.) —

When nine-year-old friends Elise Pelsinski and Dana Wiker had a day off from school this week, they spent it practicing good manners.

They had lots of laughs and a few spills learning how to eat with chop sticks.

Dana's mother, Nancy Wiker, who is a home economist for Lancaster Extension, set one table with china, crystal stemware, and silverware, and another table with plates and chopsticks.

Place settings with three spoons, two forks, and a knife no longer confuses these two girls.

"This is the soup spoon," Elise pointed out.

"And, this one is for dessert," Dana said of the one that is left after using the first one with the main dish.

Like most of their friends, the two girls grow up hearing that good manners mean "elbows off the table," and "napkins on your lap."

But Dana and Elise also know that when they are finished eating, they should place their utensils on the middle of their plates and lay their napkins on the table.

They know the butter knife is not to be used for spreading butter on their bread. Although for some fun during the picture-taking session, Elise did use it to butter her bread much to Dana's horror.

Soup should be eaten by spooning it away from your body.

The girls practiced meeting strangers and introducing each other to their mothers.

"You should look the adult in the eye when you say 'hello' and shake their hand," Dana said.

Dana's mom teaches parents on how to teach children good manners. Mrs. Wiker said that role playing is a good way for children to learn good manners.

Manners don't only show when people are watching you. Manners show over the telephone. Practice



Dana knows that good telephone manners are needed. Part of good telephone etiquette is learning to take write down messages.



Learning to use chopsticks takes lots of practice. Since Dana practices at home, she hopes that when she eats out with friends, she'll be able to eat neatly.



Always practice good manners by writing thank you notes for gifts and thoughtful things that others do for you.



At first spooning soup away from her is a bit awkward, but Elise learns that this method helps prevent the soup from slopping on her while eating soup.

good telephone manners. Identify yourself and learn how to take messages.

What do you do if the unexpected happens? For example, what do you say if someone gives you a gift that you don't like?

Should you lie?

Mrs. Wiker prepares her children for these unexpected occasions by having them role play the event and say, "Thank you for thinking

of me and giving me a gift."

"And, always, write a thank you note," Dana said.

"Right away," her mother said.

"Before they forget."

Many books are available on etiquette for children and teen-agers. For a listing of resource books, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Nancy Wiker, 1383 Arcadia Dr., Lancaster, PA 17601.

FIND THE TWINS

WHICH TWO ARE EXACTLY ALIKE?

