

July 26, 2004

- Sunday Sections**
- A&E
 - CareerBuilder
 - Travel & Explore
 - Viewpoints

- Weekly Features**
- Food & Drink
 - Your Home
 - Movie Preview
 - Wheels
 - Yes

- Communities**
- Ahwatukee
 - Chandler
 - Gilbert
 - Glendale / Peoria
 - Mesa
 - Phoenix
 - Scottsdale
 - Southwest Valley
 - Sun Cities / Surprise
 - Tempe
 - iExtra!

- 7-Day Archive**
- Sunday
 - Monday
 - Tuesday
 - Wednesday
 - Thursday
 - Friday
 - Saturday

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All


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• [Archives \(from 1999\)](#)

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Etiquette matters, politeness pays off

Jul. 26, 2004 12:00 AM

I found the July 17 article, "Etiquette matters," disappointing.

There is so much more to good manners and developing civilized, courteous children than just remembering "pinkies up!"

I'm not saying that refined dining manners aren't important, but the majority of families can't afford \$595 to send their children to a program to learn "where to put the knife and fork." However, every child should be empowered with the knowledge of even the most basic social skills, without which they will not succeed in life. Good social skills are truly the great equalizer; they transcend all racial, socio-economic, and gender differences.

That's why The PoliteChild program is making such a difference in the lives of the children we teach. While we do incorporate traditional "finishing school" features, we also recognize that there is more to good behavior than how to butter your dinner roll. Our program is built around the concept of the 3 Cs: Courtesy, Caring and Compassion.

The Golden Rule - "Treat others the way you want them to treat you" - is the cornerstone of all our courses. We strive to teach the children to become better people, which in the end is equally as important as saying "please" and "thank you."

Keira Gudnason, Scottsdale

The writer is with Phoenix/Scottsdale PoliteChild Affiliate, www.politechild.com.

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- [Viewpoints](#)

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