



Living With Children

By John Rosemond
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The Wall Street Journal recently interviewed Daniel Eddy, a New York City chef, on how to have a mutually-successful experience with a young child in an upscale restaurant (“How to Take Your Kids Out to Eat and Actually Enjoy the Experience,” July 14, 2016). WSJ obviously thinks the fact that being a chef qualifies one as an expert the subject; it seems to me, however, that a wait-person would have the better perspective.

Eddy’s first advice is to

time the experience so that it coincides with the child’s usual mealtime. That seems like good common sense. Then, he says, prep the child for the experience so as to “build some excitement.”

Speaking as one who travels for a living and eats many evening meals in nice eateries, I do not appreciate having an excited child, much less parents who are trying to help a child have an exciting experience, sitting within fork-throwing distance of me in a restaurant. Nice restau-

rants are not for having exciting experiences. They are for having calm, and perhaps even stimulating (but not exciting) conversation, over a well-prepared meal, equally well-served.

To summarize the full extent of Eddy’s advice, a parent-child restaurant experience should be one-hundred percent child-focused. Parents should even prepare for the possibility the child will become restless by bringing along toys and books—NEW toys and books, mind you, so the child will be excited by them. I am reminded of the time my wife and I were seated next to a family of four in an upscale restaurant in San Francisco. The two young children became restless, so

the parents pulled out a portable DVD player. My wife and I ate the rest of our meal to the accompaniment of the soundtrack from a popular animated film. Then there was the time on Kauai when two young and restless children were allowed to stand on their chairs and serenade the rest of the patrons. And the time in Atlanta when two restless children began skating through a restaurant on wheelie shoes while their parents sat at the table, oblivious.

Mr. Eddy is like too many parents these days: His over-focus on his child renders him oblivious to the comfort level of others. The mere fact that a child might become restless in a restaurant is reason enough to leave the child at

home with a sitter. And if one cannot obtain a sitter, then call the restaurant and cancel. Or go to Chuck E. Cheese’s where, according to its website, “a kid can be a kid!”

Mr. Eddy obviously does not understand that the very parent who brings things with which to entertain a young child in an upscale restaurant is the very parent who should not have brought the child in the first place. He does not understand because he is the parent in question.

My eminently commonsensical advice, in three parts: (1) Children should not go to nice restaurants until they have learned proper table manners. The place to teach such manners is at home. My wife

and I insisted upon proper at home table manners because, as we told our kids from early on, “You are in training to eat in nice restaurants and other people’s homes.” (2) A restaurant experience should not be child-focused. Rather, children in restaurants should be, for the most part, observers, students. That is their place in the world, after all. (3) The purpose of taking a child to a nice restaurant should not be—as Mr. Eddy suggests—to help the child have fun but to help the child learn how to properly act in a restaurant.

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“NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX LEVIES FOR THE UPCOMING FISCAL YEAR FOR THE TOWN OF GOODMAN”

The Town of Goodman will hold a public hearing on its proposed budget and proposed tax levies for the fiscal year 2018 on Thursday, September 6, 2018, 4:30 p.m., at the Goodman Town Hall located at 9912 Main Street, Goodman, MS.

The Town of Goodman is now operating with projected total budget revenue of \$486,484. \$60,000, or 12% of such revenue is obtained through Ad Valorem Taxes. For the next fiscal year, the proposed budget has total projected revenue of \$ 538,700. Of that amount, 12% or \$65,000 is to be financed through a total ad valorem tax levy.

The decision to not increase the ad valorem tax millage rate for the fiscal year 2019 above the current fiscal year’s ad valorem tax millage rate means you will not pay more in ad valorem taxes on your home, automobile tag, utilities, business fixtures and equipment and rental and real property, unless the assessed value of your property has increased for the fiscal year 2018.

The Town of Goodman millage rate remains the same as last year at 37.38.

Any citizen of the Town of Goodman is invited to attend this public hearing on the proposed budget and tax levies for the fiscal year 2019 and will be allowed to speak for a reasonable amount of time and offer tangible evidence before any vote is taken.

*Coach of the Year

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than third place in state, finished first in North State four times, including winning state two of the past four years and are currently the reigning state champions.

Cross country and track are not the same sport as Edwards, who also coaches girls basketball which includes conference championships and state tournament qualifiers, will tell anyone. Both sports go beyond simply running.

“You’ve got to be able to put in the miles,” Edwards said, “The first year we started there was only a two-mile run for girls, for the state championship it was just a two-mile run for girls. Last year it was bumped to a 2.5. This year it’s now a 5K (five kilometers or 3.107 miles). The training for that has to be upped a lot, which this year will be the first year that the girls will actually run in an MAIS 5K.”

A three-mile run is now the standard in Edwards’ coaching, netting up to 17 miles in a Monday through Friday period.

Motivating a young high school girl to run three miles is a job in and of itself.

“It not easy,” said Edwards. “They will come to you and say ‘Coach, please don’t make us run.’ If they don’t run a lot all the time, they can get a lot of back problems. Some that are just starting out, they don’t have a strong core.”

Other challenges arise for the teams to meet as a whole at times.

“It’s difficult for some of them, they’ve got softball Mondays and Tuesdays, if they’re gone to games they can’t run those days. Wednesday we run, Thursday junior high has football, so there’s cheerleading and everything else. Friday is high school (football), so high school (girls) can’t run. It’s kind of split up right now,” said Edwards.

Softball will soon die down, giving the runners a “good, solid month” for more concise training.

Finding the balance be-

tween physical and mental motivation is equally vital as putting in the miles.

“This year I have sixteen girls running and hadn’t had any quit,” Edwards added. “We’re already in the first month. I’ve got some young one who I think are going to be really good runners.”

Edwards herself receives motivation from husband and assistant coach, Chuck.

“He is our biggest supporter and he’s our statistics man,” said Edwards. “Any time you want to know, he can spit it out to you. He’s my biggest supporter, there for every meet. I’m the hard one on the girls, then comes and is the softie with the girls. I guess that dynamic works well, I’ll get them in that game mode, serious, he kind of talks to the nerves. He loves it just as much as I do.”

CHCS Headmaster Tony Banks heaped plenty of praise towards Edwards on her direction and coaching.

“Coach Meeks has a passion for those girls in those two sports she coaches, we’re glad to have her,” said Banks. “A good program goes beyond winning alone, people see what type of relationship Nikki has with the girls. Those relationships are a big part of why she has the success she has. Getting the girls to run in one hundred degree heat is work itself.”

Ellen Carr, mother of Aubrey Carr who is on both track and cross country teams, also applauded Edwards back in early May after the 2018 AA girls track won the division state championship.

“I can not express how thankful I am for Nikki Edwards always pushing them to be their very best,” said Carr. “The impact she has on these girls will stay with them far beyond thier days at CHCS.”

Edwards said recently that Mississippi MileSplit had predicted the cross country girls to win again this year.

“I think (the Coach of the Years awards) put a little more target on us this year,” Edwards added. “Everybody else is after you.”