

Mother concerned about 6-year-old daughter gossiping

Dear Dr. Brothers: Maybe I’ve gone over the top, because — much to my shock — I heard my 6-year-old gossiping with her little friends.

I hate gossip more than I can say, and because of rumors neighbors once spread about me, I almost lost my husband.

How could my daughter possibly engage in this kind of thing?

Now I’m worried because I think: Is this behavior in her genes, and what am I going to do if it is?

I don’t want to be stern with her, or for her to think I go around eves-dropping, but what should I do? — E.C.

Dear E.C.: I think you are overreacting because of an unpleasant incident in the past.



Dr. Joyce Brothers

● Ask Dr. Brothers

What your daughter did wasn’t unusual; in fact, children start gossiping almost as soon as they can talk.

Gossip isn’t all negative, and much of what is labeled as gossip is merely sharing information, making conversation in an effort to relate to others and make friends.

This sharing is especially im-

portant for children because it’s a way of socializing, of learning what’s acceptable and what isn’t in their world, what the norms are.

It’s not so different from adult gossip, with one major exception: With adults, the gossip usually revolves about those who aren’t there, whereas with children, the person discussed is

more likely to be present. Because it’s more public, it’s one way of learning about reactions. Instead of disciplining her, it might be wiser to talk about negative reactions if something unkind is said. Suggest that she test this by imagining how she’d react if she were the one being talked about.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I’m thinking maybe I made a mistake by marrying a guy who honestly prefers staying home and watching TV or films or reading to going out to a dinner party or being with friends having fun.

Because we always went out together when we were courting — we didn’t have a home or a place

to stay in then — I wasn’t aware of this in him then.

My friend tells me he’s just an introvert, and I’m going to have to get used to it or make some drastic changes myself. I don’t want to.

Selfishly, perhaps, I want to change him. I like the way I am. — P.R.

Dear P.R.: It’s not so easy to change a person’s temperament, and I question whether one even could do this.

I’m also not certain whether it would be wise to do so.

There’s evidence to suggest that we’re born with a certain temperament and some basic traits, which are wired in and don’t change much throughout a lifetime.

Why should changing be necessary? We’re all capable of compromise and making adjustments to please others, such as your husband agreeing to go out socially with you to an occasional party or to some event that’s of special interest to you, and you might try sharing things with him that he enjoys, such as a film or reading some of the same books so you can discuss them later.

Both extroverts and introverts have many things to offer, and being with someone who sees and thinks differently can lead to growth and happiness as both become more flexible and willing to try something new.

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Grandmother worries about lack of social graces

Dear Heloise: I am an 84-year-old grandmother and great-grandmother. I love my little people, but fear they are growing up with no social graces.

On Valentine’s Day, Easter, birthdays and special days, we send them pretty cards with a little “pin money.”

Do we ever hear from them? No! All they need to do is pick up the phone and call. We do not expect them to drop a note, although that would be nice.

Children today take too much for granted and are too busy with the computer or watching television. Where are the standards we grew up with?

We need a courtesy class, and soon.

Thank you so much for your fun learning column. Don’t ever give it up — it makes my day.

— H.R.K., via letter

You are not alone concerning this good-manners subject. It seems that receiving a handwritten thank-you is becoming more rare.

However, each generation seems to lament about this touchy topic, so it’s not just “young people” today.

Yes, a verbal or e-mail thank-you might be appropriate for many occasions, but a handwritten one still is always appreciated.

And here’s a comment from Carolyn in Tennessee: “I have given numerous gifts over time and have received very few thank yous in verbal or note form, so I have come up with a plan.

All my future wedding, baby and birthday gifts will be a card with a booklet inside.

The booklet is one I got for \$1, and it includes ways to say ‘thank

you.’” Well, this is certainly one thought, but I’m not sure how well your gift will be received.

— Heloise

Fast Facts

Dear Readers: Fingernail polish isn’t just for fingernails! Try these hints:

- Mark tools, so they get returned.
- Mark “on” and “off” positions on stove knobs.
- Mark the location of a favorite radio station.

• May be used to cover scratches on appliances if the color matches.

— Heloise

No more denim rollup

Dear Heloise: In response to the lady who uses clothespins on the hems of her denim clothes to keep them from curling up, here is a solution:

Turn all denim clothing inside-out, and there won’t be a problem with curling hems.

— M.G.M., San Antonio

Sound off

Dear Heloise: I pick up lunch for a bunch of us in my office, but ordering several lunches from a fast-food drive-through can be extremely frustrating.

Nine times out of 10, I find that something is missing when I get back to the office. If I call and complain, they’ll say to come back for it.

Since I have limited time for lunch, this isn’t possible, and if I take the time to check the order before I leave the drive-through, the cars behind me have to wait.

— A Reader, via e-mail

This is a universal Sound Off, and one many people can relate to! Folks, what’s your hint to prevent his aggravating dilemma?

— Heloise

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News of Record

The following arrests or incidents have been provided by either the Thomas County Sheriff’s office or the Colby Police Department.

All suspects were booked into the county jail and are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

The Thomas County Jail is used by the towns of Colby and Oakley and Logan and Thomas counties.

Colby Police Department

Wednesday, April 11

• **Parking complaint:** Police were called at 4:20 p.m. about a vehicle parked by Experiment Station Road.

• **Traffic:** A 911 call at 5:18 p.m. advised of two men running into traffic on the eastbound ramp of Interstate 70.

• **Theft:** Police were called at 7 p.m. to the Travel Shoppe regarding missing money from an automobile, 1990 S. Range Ave.

• **Animal complaint:** A resident called at 7:16 p.m. advising police that someone put a dead animal on her porch in the 300 block of West Webster.

• **Harassment:** Police were advised at 7:54 p.m. by a resident saying they had received threatening text messages in the 1100 block of South Franklin.

Friday, April 13

• **Suspicious person:** A clerk called police at 2:31 a.m. advising of someone bothering him at a convenience store on South Range Avenue. A clerk from the same location called again at 2:50 a.m. saying a suspicious person was bothering him. Police paged Thomas County Emergency Medical Services that suspicious person was having diabetic-related problems.

• **Service rendered:** A call at 7:52 p.m. advised police that the caller’s father-in-law needed information.

Saturday, April 14

• **Child In Need of Care:** A call at 11:40 a.m. requested a police officer regarding a child in need of care.

• **Gas Skip:** Police were advised at 2:17 p.m. of a gas skip from Oasis Travel Center. The Kansas Highway Patrol caught up to the car on Interstate 70. The driver said it was an accident and paid the charge.

Sunday, April 15

• **Service rendered:** Police were called at 5:13 a.m. by someone at Citizens Medical Center saying a patient was becoming violent.

• **Suspicious vehicle:** The clerk at the 24/7 Store called at 5:48 a.m. advising police that a car had been parked by the gas pumps for about 30 minutes with no one getting out. The officer said the people were sleeping. They fueled up and left.

• **Criminal damage to property:** Police were advised at 1:42 p.m. of tires being slashed on two vehicles in the 1100 block of South Franklin Avenue.

• **Parking complaints:** Between 5:46 p.m. and 9:42 p.m., a police officer cited 12 parking violations on Maize Road, various area of West Second, Fourth, Fifth Seventh, and Eighth Streets.

Monday, April 16

• **Theft:** An individual called at 9 a.m. to report lost cell phone.

• **Criminal damage:** A 911 call at 12:52 p.m. advised of a back vehicle window broken out — later determined to be weather-related.

The car was parked on College Drive across from the Health Science building.

• **Civil matter/rape:** Police were advised at 10:04 p.m. of someone owing money to another individual in the 1100 block of South Franklin Avenue. A report was also filed of alleged rape at same location.

“Dog-gone” it....

I shoulda used the

Classifieds!

Call

462-3963

