

SPEED DATING FOR THE NEW “MUTER” (MOTHER)

The Yiddish word meaning “speed/rapidity” is “gikhkayt.”
“MFF” means “Mom Friend Forever.”

By



Marjorie Gottlieb Wolfe

Being a new “muter” can be lonely (“eint”) and isolating. The JCC in Plainview, New York, offers “The Mothers’ Center,” a weekly group where mothers are offered a place to learn, to listen and to be listened to. It is an opportunity to talk with other moms and share parenting concerns in a non-judgmental, parent-to-parent setting.

Do you want to add some fellow mothers to your Rolodex of go-to playdates? A good mom friend (“fraynd,” “khaver”) can be hard to find.

Bonnie Gibbs Vengrow (www.parents.com) says that “the playground crowd (“oylem”) isn’t always the easiest to break into. Mamas are often either too busy, too tired (“farmatert”), or too shy (“shemevdik”) to strike up a conversation.”

What’s the solution? Mom speed dating! These events are popping up all over “dos land” (the country). They can be found in busy New York City streets and small (“kleyn”) towns of Texas. Psychologist, Heather Harrison thinks the idea is pure genius (“goen”). Harrison says that “In a speed-dating setting, you’re sharing the best parts of yourself in just a few minutes.” She thinks that’s an efficient (“beryesh”) way to gather enough information to know whether or not you’d want to talk to someone for a second (“tsveyter”) time.”

How does speed dating work? The moms are seated at tables and given 4 - 5 minutes to talk to each partner (“shutel”) before moving on to the next.

What types of questions can be asked? Hillary Frank suggests this

question: “What’s the craziest thing you’ve ever done due to sleep deprivation?” Others have suggested the question, “Isn’t Kim Kardashian and Kanya West spoiling adorable North West by giving her \$50,000 diamond earrings and a \$1,450 YSL purse?” Another question, “Would you outsource potty training or is this something you want to experience as a mother?”

FYI: Potty training, table manners, ridding hair of lice, and the latest: potty training. Yes, there’s a NYC woman, Samantha Allen, who has launched her new company, NYC Potty Training. And it’s taking Big Apple moms by storm.

This behavioral analysis teacher states that her customized potty training can be completed in as little as one day. A two-day session (which she recommends) is also available. What is the “prayz” (cost)?

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| One-day session: | \$ 925 |
| Two-day session: | \$1,750 |
| Twins (3 days) | \$2,575 |
| Twins (4 days) | \$3,400 |
| Triplets (5 days) | \$4,300 |
| Triplets (6 days) | \$5,150 |
| Phone consultation | \$ 200 |
| Consultation Plus Support | \$300 (up to 3 calls per day) |
| Preparation consult | \$ 50 |

Potty training gift certificates are also available.

NYC Potty Training, Inc. offers no verbal or written promise (“tsuzog”), covenant, guarantee, warranty, either expressed or implied, regarding the success of any services rendered.

My suggested icebreakers:

Q. Did the late Joan Rivers really write:

1. “Having a baby and becoming a mother should be a ball. Not a bawl.”
2. “My doctor left more stitches in me than an entire knit dress.”
3. “They had to give me gas, plus a spinal, plus ether--and I still felt everything.”
4. “When my Big Day came (Jan. 20, 1968), it was joyous and exciting--

and well worth the minor pain and discomfort I suffered when I broke two front teeth (“tseyner”) while biting down on a bullet.”

5. [to her doctor] “Doc, I’m from a small town--Larchmont. The only hospital we have is Fred’s Hospital & Grill and somehow I find it hard to trust a doctor whose sterilizer has hot dogs in it.”
6. “[new] Mothers should have time to fix themselves up. Otherwise some husbands might start looking for a little extra-curricular activities. I mean, no man wants to make out with a wife wearing bunny slippers with one eye missing, an old terrycloth robe and toilet paper wrapped around her hair.” (see number 9)
7. [around first birthday] “This is the age when a baby might be both frightened and fascinated by strange objects that make sudden loud noises, like trains or phones or the whirling of a blender or a power lawnmower or the barking of a dog (“hunt”). Shield him as best you can from these disturbances. If the running of a vacuum cleaner (“shtoybzoyger”) should frighten him, give up using it in front of him for a few months.

If the running of the vacuum cleaner doesn’t frighten him, what measures can I take to see that it does?”

8. [on toilet training] “Every mother has her own method. Mine was the applause gimmick. Melissa and I got off to a great start with this. Every day I would put her on the potty and when she had done what I wanted, I would applaud her efforts. Just like the books said. I did this for several week and I was beginning to feel quite confident. Then Melissa got things backward (“oyf tsurik”), and whenever the television was on and she heard applause, she went to the bathroom... in the living room.”
9. (speaking of daddy--“der tate”)
“And speaking of daddy coming home, how come a baby who has acted like an angel (“malakh”) all day long suddenly (“plutsling”) sets up an unearthly howl at the exact moment when mommy chooses to fix herself up to look good for papa?”
10. [force-feeding baby]
“At one, a baby often isn’t as hungry (“hungerik”) as he was. Teething may have something to do with it. So don’t force-feed. He’s entitled to

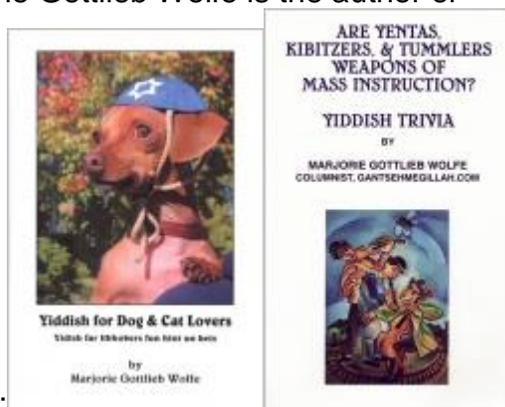
his personal preferences in food. Get across the notion that eating is enjoyable. In my house that will be easy. I'll just smile and say, 'Eat some more, honey. It's good. Mommy didn't make it.'"

11. [keeping in touch with the "dokter"]

"Hello, Doctor. I'm sorry to disturb you on a Tuesday as I know this is your morning to make out your inflated Blue Shield reports, but I just had to talk to you. Yes, I'll be brief...You see, my darling baby is three now and off to nursery school.....Wait, Doc, hold on...just two minutes more...My husband has never adored me more now that I've fulfilled my role as M*O*T*H*E*R. Why he put me on a pedestal and, even though I have to dust, it's worth it....Anyhow, now that I'm a Ma, I've decided to go back to school and get my M.A. I was a philosophy major in college. What good did philosophy do me these last couple of years with a screaming, wet ("nas") kid on my hands? All I could use it for was to prove to myself that the dirty ("shmutsik") diapers didn't really exist..... So, why am I calling you if everything is so terrific? Well, you see, Doc, up until this morning I really was the happiest and fittest of women. But I woke up feeling perfectly bushed ("farmatert"). Headache. Heartburn ("harts-brenenish"). Nausea. And I blush to bring up such intimate symptoms, especially as I know your service is listening in, but my you-know-what is long, long overdue and ..."

Source: "Having A Baby Can Be A Scream" by Joan Rivers

Marjorie Gottlieb Wolfe is the author of



two books:

"Yiddish for Dog & Cat Lovers" and
"Are Yentas, Kibitzers, & Tumblers Weapons of Mass Instruction? Yiddish Trivia." To order a copy, go to her website: MarjorieGottliebWolfe.com

NU, what are you waiting for? Order the book!