

CAKE SERVICE ACTIVITY

Purpose:

To show the way in which food is served affects its appeal.

The teacher will serve 8 volunteers a piece of cake. Each piece is served on different types of dinnerware. (Request that the students be extremely quiet and listen to their own feelings as they observe what is happening. Use this reaction during the discussion following this activity.)

Materials needed:

A fancy decorated cake cut into 8 pieces, a china or stoneware plate, 2 cloth napkins, a silver fork, Corelle plate, plastic or campware plate, paper plate, chopsticks, 3 paper napkins, paper towel, 2 stainless steel forks, 1 plastic fork, and the hand (pick up and place on hand of the volunteer).

Procedure:

Pass out mints or some other small treat to the rest of the class to maintain rapport and eliminate complaints if desired.

Serve each student her/his cake in a different manner and in the following order (decreasing formality):

1. A china plate, cloth napkin, and silver fork—served formally, asking questions such as, "Can I get you anything else?", "Are you finished?", "May I take your plate?".
2. A Corelle plate, cloth napkin, stainless steel fork—with a little less service than #1.
3. Campware or a Melmac (plastic) plate, stainless steel fork (put on plate), paper napkin—even less service.
4. Paper plate, plastic fork, paper napkin—stick fork in cake.
5. Paper plate, chopsticks.
6. Paper napkin—placed on table in front of person.
7. Paper towel—handed to person.
8. Using your bare hand—handed to person saying rather rudely, "Here's yours".

Conclude the activity by asking the following questions or questions of the teacher's choosing. Answers may vary.

- a. (for the last recipient—using the hand as the vehicle) I know you're happy to eat cake in class, but how did you feel about the way it was served?
- b. (for the first recipient—using a nice stoneware plate) How did you feel about the way your cake was served?
- c. (for the other recipients) How did you feel about the service you received?
- d. (for the class) How did you feel as I (the teacher) was serving the cake?