



# GALLUP POLL, MOTHERS' EDITION

GOLDIE GROSSBAUM

I just got a call from Gallup doing a survey on something or other. I declined to participate, but I figured I'd do a little study on my own. Only this one won't cost us taxpayers any money.

The goal of this poll, just like Gallup, is "to deliver relevant, timely, and visionary research on what people [in our case, children] around the world think and feel. Using impeccable data and behavioral indicators that are vital to strategic plans," I present to you the Mothers' Gallup Poll.

I must emphasize that all the children in this study are being brought up under the same environment, rules, guidance (both gentle and otherwise), and adult love and care. Therefore, we cannot say that any of the results are

based on the environment, exposure to certain people or places, or anything like that.

Four out of seven children, between the ages of two and 12, born to the same mother and father, will put their shoes in their cubby where they are supposed to, while three out of seven will not.

Two out of eight children will get ready for bed the first time they are told, one out of eight will need to be told three times and five out of eight will need to be led by the hand.

And yes, just to reiterate, they are all born to the same mother, raised in the same house with the same rules.

Two out of two children between ages two and three will prefer to write on the wall than on a sheet of paper.

One out of eight children will always clean their spot and tidy up around them and leave no trace of their mess.

Seven out of eight children will prefer not to clean up their spot at the table after mealtimes.

Four out of eight children will need to be told twice, and three out of seven will need to be threatened before clearing their spot.

Four out of eight children will slurp their spaghetti and ketchup so that it sprays red spots all over the kitchen.

Two out of eight children will wear their food by the time the meal is over.

Two out of eight children can wear their clothes for two days straight and it will still be as good as new.

One out of eight children needs new shoes every six weeks, while two out of eight can wear their shoes for a year straight and still get more use out of them.

Five out of eight, raised with the same rules, will dump their dirty clothes in any spot they wish.

One out of eight children will naturally put their clothing in the hamper.

One out of eight children will only need to be told twice, and then will pick up their clothes and put it in the hamper.

Two out of two children between the ages of two and three enjoy painting with toothpaste on the bathroom mirror.

Zero out of two children between the ages of two and three will put the caps back on the markers they are using.

One out of one newly toilet-trained child will enjoy pulling a roll of toilet paper as far as it can go.

Two out of seven children going to school will misbehave and be sent out of class.





One out of seven children will not want to go to school.

Four out of seven children will love going to school every day.

Two out of seven children who go to school will get dressed the moment they wake up.

Three out of seven children will wait until two minutes before it's time to leave, and then get dressed.

And there will always be one out of seven children who will start to get dressed two minutes after we were supposed to leave.

Three out of seven children will do homework on their own.

One out of seven children will not do homework, ever.

Four out of eight children look forward to a bath/shower at night.

Two out of eight children only want to shower in the morning.

Two out of eight children prefer not to shower at all.

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Two out of eight children wear their socks and shoes from the moment they wake up until bedtime.

Four out of eight children put on their socks only when they are ready to leave the house.

One out of eight children prefers to go barefoot, both inside and outside.

Three out of eight children love to read.

Two out of eight children love to bake.

One out of eight children will help in the kitchen when asked.

One out of eight children will ask to help.

Four out of eight children prefer not to help at all.

The conclusion:

Eight out of eight children, growing up in identical environments, will each grow and blossom at their own pace. Each will have their own personality and will not conform to those around them.

Treat each child like their own world. And, my fellow mothers, let's stop blaming ourselves for every time one of our children doesn't act the way we want them to. ❧

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Goldie Grossbaum and her husband Rabbi Yossi Grossbaum are the directors of Chabad of Folsom in Northern California and the proud parents of nine children ka"h – their brigade of junior *shluchim*. To read more of Goldie's writings, visit [littleyellownotepad.com](http://littleyellownotepad.com) or make sure your subscription to the *N'shei Chabad Newsletter* is up to date.