“Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week 21% of all American kids”, says *Time Magazine*, “get what they want whenever they want and that’s exactly what parents don’t want.” Well, at least most of the time. For all you parents out there who spoil your children, just remember you’re giving them the notion that they don’t need to earn what they want. And also they’ll never learn what to do when somebody’s not there to pamper them.

In 1930, kids were lucky if they got half a slinky and now, some kids feel cheated if their allowance has been lowered to ten dollars a week. That’s probably not much less than somebody on minimum wage got a day back then. And now, some parents want their kids to get whatever they want whenever they want it. Responsible kids may try to resist the temptation of being pampered. But, 99% of the time, they’re overwhelmed by their parents’ softness. But sometimes it’s the other way around and kids want the world to revolve around them and that’s what the parents don’t want.

As for Elio Guaitolini, a restaurateur in New York City, he had a drastically different taste of life. He grew up during World War II and had few necessities and no luxuries. For instance, if he wanted a pair of shoes, he had to save up for 6 months.

But if Luca, his son, a fifth grader at The Manhattan New School wants a new pair of shoes, he only has to wait 6 hours so he and his parents can get to the Foot Locker.

Luca thinks Elio learned certain things from his experience like to use what he has and to be resourceful but from Luca’s experience, he learned absolutely nothing.

But really, why do parents spoil their kids? In Luca’s case, his dad Elio had a hard life and wants him to have a better experience of life than his father. But sometimes, wealthy people were brought up as aristocrats and want their children to live no differently. But mostly kids beg, fight and have fits until they get what they want and that’s where the parents’ problem comes in. Most parents just want their kids to be happy and that’s where the spoiling comes in. But, in the long run, it makes them sad.

Parents, remember, it’s okay to say “NO” to something even if it’s very tempting to give it. And if the nagging gets very overwhelming, have a talk with the kids. And kids, if you bug your parents until you get what you want, then just stop and think that your parents already have enough trouble taking care of you so you need to consider their feelings, too. So next time you’re in the candy store, remember you don’t have to buy anything…although one won’t hurt.