HOST THOUGHTFULLY 006

Give Your Helper a Clear Role



A CLEAR TASK MAKES HELP USEFUL.

When someone offers to help, give them a complete task with a clear result. Organize a small plating team so dinner reaches the table smoothly without several people trying to direct the same job.

1 Assign one finished result

Show your helper the tools, ingredients or plates they need and explain where the result belongs. Choose a task they can complete without repeatedly asking for instructions.

Why: 'Fill these six water glasses' is easier to act on than a general request to help.

2 Demonstrate a plating step

If someone is helping plate, show the intended amount and placement on the first plate. Let them repeat that component while you finish the others.

Why: A shared visual example keeps the servings and arrangement consistent.

3 Keep the route clear

Agree who carries finished plates and where they go. Keep helpers away from hot pans and critical cooking steps unless they are comfortable with the task.

Why: Defined roles reduce crossed paths, duplicated effort and interrupted cooking.

A SIMPLE TWO-PERSON SERVICE

The host

Portions the main and checks the completed plates.

The helper

Adds the demonstrated vegetable component, wipes a plate rim if needed, or carries finished plates to the table.

Give a precise instruction

'Please place this amount of vegetables here on each plate, like this first one. I will add the fish and sauce.'

Allow natural variation

Show the result without supervising every movement. Similar portions and placement matter more than making every leaf identical.

Borrow the restaurant principle

Separate responsibilities around one coordinated service. A willing friend should make plating calmer, not create another task for you.

THE PLATING MINDSET

Give a helper a clear role, a visible example and room to complete it. Good coordination gets everyone back to the table.