



9 Chefs Relive Their Most Embarrassing Packed Lunches

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Daniel Holzman, [The Meatball Shop](#) (New York, NY)

"All of my friends always had bubble gum as an after-lunch treat, and I *really* wanted gum, but my mother would never allow it," explains Daniel Holzman, the chef and cofounder of The Meatball Shop. "She made me amazing lunches — always all natural and homemade, and artificial candy was way out of the question. I lied and told my mom that I wanted gum to freshen my breath. The next day, she packed me a quiver of parsley stems wrapped in a moist paper towel and told me I could freshen my breath with parsley, rather than gum. Needless to say, my friends had plenty of fun when I pulled out my parsley after lunch!"



PHOTO COURTESY OF: DANIEL HOLZMAN.