

Expression of the Day: 7 Ani de Acasa

There is a common (not slang) expression used in Romania that seems a little weird at first – **7 ani de acasa** (*shop-tay awn day ah casa*) because it literally means “seven years at home”.

What does it mean?

Even today, a child legally does not need to go to (full-time) school until s/he is seven years old. That is because the child is supposed to be at home learning *how to act right*.

Essentially anything you can later righteously scold them for not doing “correctly” is what you were supposed to have learned in those 7 years – manners, politeness, decorum and “proper” behavior.

Therefore, saying someone *doesn't* have **7 ani de acasa** is equivalent to saying they're rude, ill-mannered and poorly brought up as a child. Like this:

Me: (sticking my tongue out)

Offended Old Lady: Nu ai 7 ani de acasa!

The phrase “7 ani de acasa” therefore means something like “proper behavior” and anyone who is rude or uncouth doesn't “have” the seven years at home aka the proper training and therefore a proper scolding is required.