

= Our Children , Ourselves =

" Our Children , Ourselves " is the 12th episode of the second season of the American television comedy series , Modern Family and the 36th overall episode of the series . Executive producers Dan O 'Shannon & Bill Wrubel wrote the episode , and Adam Shankman directed it . The episode originally aired on the American Broadcasting Company ( ABC ) in the United States on January 12 , 2011 . It featured guest star Mary Lynn Rajskub as Mitchell 's ex @-@ girlfriend .

In this episode , the dedication of Alex to learning makes Phil and Claire question themselves . Gloria tries to meet new friends . Mitchell runs into an ex @-@ girlfriend while out with his current boyfriend , Cameron .

" Our Children , Ourselves " received generally positive reviews from television critics with many praising the " twist ending " to Mitchell and Cameron 's storyline . According to the Nielsen Media Research , the episode was viewed by 11 @.@ 12 million households during its original broadcast , and received a 4 @.@ 2 rating / 10 percent share among viewers in the 18 ? 49 demographic and became the second highest @-@ rated ABC program of the original week it aired after Grey 's Anatomy .

Sarah Hyland does not appear in the episode .

= = Plot = =

At the Dunphy house , Phil ( Ty Burrell ) and Claire ( Julie Bowen ) become worried that Alex ( Ariel Winter ) is studying too much . The two attempt to get her to take a break and eventually have to force her to do so . Alex eventually gets the second @-@ highest grade in the class , behind a classmate named Sanjay Patel . Alex believes this is due to the fact that Sanjay has a doctor and a professor for parents , while she must do her best with what she was given . This statement offends Phil and Claire , with Claire starting to think they are holding their children back .

Later when they go to the movies , they run into Sanjay 's parents who are there to see a French movie . Phil and Claire decide to follow them to encourage their kids . Midway through the movie Phil leaves to watch Croctopus 3D , the film they originally intended to see , since they both are fans of cheesy horror films involving monsters . Phil has fun at his movie while Claire falls asleep at the highly acclaimed French one . After waking her up , Phil tells her that Alex still had one of the highest grades in the class , and dumb parents do not have kids that smart . Claire is reassured and they leave for home after seeing that the " bright Dr. Patel " cannot validate his parking ticket .

Mitchell ( Jesse Tyler Ferguson ) and Cameron ( Eric Stonestreet ) bump into Mitchell 's ex @-@ girlfriend , Tracy ( Mary Lynn Rajskub ) at a mall . Mitchell suggest hanging out , but she decides against it . Later , they see Tracy with what appears to be an eight @-@ year @-@ old red @-@ headed child ( seen only from behind ) , whose approximate age would match the last time Tracy and Mitchell saw each other ( and the only time Mitchell had sex with a woman ) . Mitchell tells this to Cameron at dinner , making him anxious . He eventually agrees with Mitchell that they should meet the child , who they are sure is his son . However , they then realize that he actually is a dwarf man ( Mark Povinelli ) and Tracy 's husband . The situation becomes more awkward when he opens his present from Mitchell and Cameron , a " Little Slugger " baseball glove .

Meanwhile , the Hoffmans , a couple that Gloria ( Sofía Vergara ) and Jay ( Ed O 'Neill ) Pritchett met on a vacation , come to visit them much to Jay 's openly ( and Gloria 's more discreet ) chagrin . He eventually tells them his true feelings not knowing that they were spending the night at their house . The couple decides to leave in a cab , as Gloria comes down to apologize they give her a copy of Gabriel García Márquez 's " One hundred years of solitude " that they had signed by the author specially for her , so she convinces them to stay by telling them that Jay 's " mind is going away " . In the morning , Jay decides to apologize to the Hoffmans ; however , during his apology he drinks from a prank glass that Manny gave him , ending in him being covered in orange juice . The Hoffmans leave believing that Jay is mad and admiring Gloria for enduring such a situation .

= = Production = =

" Our Children , Ourselves " was written by executive producers , Dan O 'Shannon and Bill Wrubel . The episode was also directed by Adam Shankman . This episode was the second script collaboration by O 'Shannon and Wrubel , who co @-@ wrote the episode " Airport 2010 " . " Our Children , Ourselves " was filmed on October 13 , and October 15 , 2010 .

In October 2010 , TV Guide reported that Mary Lynn Rajs kub had been cast as Mitchell 's ex @-@ girlfriend . She filmed her appearance on October 13 , 2010 . Rajs kub later said in an interview on Lopez Tonight that she had gone through the same experience : " I had this guy , I think I was in 7th or 8th grade ... we had this make out session [ ... ] he pulled away abruptly and I never saw him again . Then 20 years later he facebooked me . Totally gay " .

The episode aired on ABC in the United States on January 12 , 2011 . When the episode aired , the airtime was pushed 20 minutes later than its usual time slot due to Barack Obama 's speech about the 2011 Tucson shooting .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

In its original American broadcast , " Our Children , Ourselves " was seen by an estimated 11 @.@ 12 million households and received a 4 @.@ 2 rating / 10 % share among adults between the ages of 18 and 49 . This means that it was seen by 4 @.@ 2 % of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds , and 10 % of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds watching television at the time of the broadcast . This made it the highest @-@ rated program on Wednesday , according to the Nielsen Media Research . The episode received a drop from the previous episode , " Slow Down Your Neighbors " , possibly because of the 20 @-@ minute delay in its starting time . Despite this , the episode became the second highest @-@ rated ABC show after Grey 's Anatomy and the finished seventh in the ratings the week it premiered .

= = = Reviews = = =

The episode received mostly positive reviews , with many praising the ending to Mitchell and Cameron 's storyline .

TV Squad writer Joel Keller gave the episode a positive review , writing that it had " funny moments " , but pointed out that " all of them left me wanting some more information to round things out . "

John Teti of The A.V. Club called it " not a very good episode " and mainly criticized the Delgado ? Pritchett storyline , comparing it to " every episode of Three ? s Company ever . " Teti ultimately gave the episode a C + .

Rachael Maddux of New York praised the episode for letting the characters " out of their primly landscaped domiciles to interact with the other batty folks of the world " .

Matt Roush of TV Guidewrote that the episode 's story lines were " all winners " . Joyce Eng and KMate Stanhope , also from TV Guide , later named the conclusion to Mitchell and Cameron 's storyline the best moment of the week , January 6 to January 13 , 2011 .

Entertainment Weekly writer Lesley Savage commented that while the episode wasn 't a good follow up to " Slow Down Your Neighbors " , the ending to the Pritchett @-@ Tucker storyline was " pretty darn funny , and possibly a little un @-@ PC " .

James Poniewozik of Time wrote that while the plot came " straight out of the Wacky Misunderstanding School of Sitcomedy " it was still a satisfying episode calling Phil and Claire 's storyline " the most amusing storyline " .