



Etiquette for Children and Youth



The Gift of Good Manners



Section 1

What Is Etiquette?



What Does “Etiquette” Mean To You?

Emily Post On Etiquette



“Whenever two people come together and their behavior affects one another, you have etiquette.”

“Etiquette is not some rigid code of manners, it’s simply how persons’ lives touch one another.”





Etiquette is the fuel that powers all relationships.

Family
Friends
School



Etiquette = Manners + Principles

Manners:

- Smooth the way to build better relationships.
- They tell us what to do and what to expect others to do.



Why Call Manners a Gift?



- Manners are skills to be used for a lifetime.
- Kids who know which manners to use in any situation will have increased self-confidence.
- What better gift than **social skills** to navigate any relationship or social event with **self-confidence**?



Manners Are Tools

It takes 4 things to learn to use any tool:

- ✂ Basic Ability
- ✂ Good Teaching
- ✂ Practice
- ✂ Repetition



Etiquette = Manners + Principles

Manners:

- Smooth the way to build better relationships.
- They tell us what to do and what to expect others to do.

Principles:

- Serve as a foundation for all the manners.
- Help us to figure out how to interact when there is no manner.





Consideration

Respect

Honesty



Consideration simply means:

- Thinking about and being aware of others who are involved.
- Golden Rule.
- Platinum Rule.



Respect means caring for and accepting others just as they are.

Respect means caring for yourself.

Respect means caring for things that are important to you and others.



Formula for Respect

Treat your children with respect

Treat yourself with respect

+ Treat those around you with respect

Your children will learn to
respect themselves and others.



Honesty means finding the positive truth and then telling it.

Honesty means wrapping the principles and manners in sincerity.



Manners vs. Principles

Manners

- Time sensitive
- Vary between cultures

Principles

- Timeless
- Cross cultural boundaries

Example: Shaking hands vs. bowing

The **Manner** differs culturally.

The **Principle** crosses cultural boundaries.



■ Consideration

Thinking, empathy



■ Think Before Acting

■ Respect

Recognize the worth and value of others by determining if your actions, appearance, and/or words grow rather than hurt the relationship



■ Make Choices That Build Relationships

■ Honesty

Acting sincerely,
being truthful



■ Do It Sincerely



Step 1: **Consideration**

1. Who's affected?
2. How are they affected?



Step 2: Solutions/Responses

1. Not just one.
2. Impulsive solution:
 1. Might not solve the situation.
 2. May hurt the relationship.



Step 3: **Respect**

1. Look at each solution.
2. How does it affect each person?



Step 4: **Honesty**

1. Choose the solution that is best for everyone and for the relationship.



Step 5: Refine Response

1. Won't use it every time.
2. May improve your solution.



Five-Step Method

Step 1: Consideration

Step 2: Solutions/Responses

Step 3: Respect

Step 4: Honesty

Step 5: Refine Response



Your and your family are going to a family friend's wedding. Your parents have reminded you to shake hands and introduce yourself. Sure enough, you see someone sneeze into their hand. A minute later you are introduced to the person, and she extends her hand to shake hands. Mom and dad are watching.

What would you do?



1. Consideration

Who is affected?

You:

The person:

Your parents:

The other family:



1. Consideration

Who is affected?

How are they affected?

You: Unsure, nervous

The person: Confused, embarrassed or unaware

Your parents: Surprised, angry

The other family: Negatively affected



2. Solutions

- Don't shake hands.

- Shake hands.

- Escape

1. I'm so embarrassed. I just sneezed on my hand. As soon as I get back from the restroom...”

2. Please excuse me for not shaking hands. I've got a bad cold and don't want to spread it.



3. Respect

- Don't shake hands.
- Escape.
- Shake hands.
- Ok for you: you temporarily avoid problem.
Rude to others.
- May work for you and the others immediately.
Problem remains.
- Hard on you.
Works for the others.



4. Honesty

- Don't shake hands.
- Escape.
- Shake hands.
- Causes more trouble than it solves.
- Doesn't really resolve the situation.
- Hard on you.
Easy on the others.
Ultimately, it works best for you.



5. Refine as necessary

- You decide that after shaking hands, you will immediately excuse yourself to go to the restroom and wash your hands.



Manners – The Happy Gift

The American essayist Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, “Manners are the happy ways of doing things.” These “happy ways” are among the most extraordinary gifts you can give to your child. Good manners will play a considerable role in the happiness and contentment of your child and the many people he or she encounters. For eighteen years you and your child will travel a long and sometimes rocky road together. Learning and practicing good manners will often make the journey easier for you both. By the time your child is ready to tackle the world on his or her own terms, he or she will have your gift of good manners to smooth the way.



Thank You

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Misbehaving Guests

What can you do when your child's friend who is over on a play date is misbehaving?

- Basic manners
- Plays too rough
- Uses inappropriate language



Greetings and Introductions

You've always told your child that they shouldn't hug strangers. Great Aunt Maria will be at Thanksgiving dinner and will be seeing your child for the first time. You know she will want to hug your child. You would...

Other issues related to greetings

- Look them in the eye
- One shy child; one outgoing
- The relative who smells of cigarettes



What do you do when your child's friend's family has different standards from yours?

- Day to day issues
- Safety



What can you do to prepare your kids for a holiday dinner?

- Table manners
- Favorite foods
- Children's table