



Values Education

Politeness: goes far, yet costs nothing!

Recently, while researching into 'manners' we discovered one of the original Good Manners Charts; produced in 1889. You can't see too much detail here, but the children have taken the sections and re-written the chart; with an up-to-date contemporary slant...

AT HOME:

Be kind and thoughtful to all your family. Help with jobs and show respect for your things, your home and your parents. Share, care and give to others. Think about how you can make life good for all in your home and what you can do to help.

AT THE TABLE:

Always wash your hands before coming to the table. Do not put your knife into your mouth. Serve food to others first. Do not speak or drink with food in your mouth. Please cover your mouth before you sneeze or cough. Keep your elbows off the table.

"GOOD MANNERS"

BASED UPON RULES OF THE
Children's National Guild of Courtesy

COURTESY, Politeness, or Good Manners, means kindly and thoughtful consideration for others. A Celebrated writer has said that a Boy who is Courteous and Pure is an honour to his country. Brave and Noble men and women are always Courteous. Three of the bravest and greatest men who ever lived—the Duke of Wellington, General Gordon and General Washington—were distinguished for their courteous behaviour.

Courteous Boys and Girls will always be careful to observe the following RULES:—

AS TO THEMSELVES	Be Honest, Truthful, and Pure. Do not use Bad Language. Keep out of Bad Company. Keep your Face and Hands clean, and your Clothes and Boots brushed and neat.
AT HOME	Help your Parents as much as you can, and do your best to please them. Be kind to your Brothers and Sisters. Do not be selfish, but share all your Good Things.
AT SCHOOL	Be Respectful to your Teachers, and help them as much as you can; their work is very difficult and tiring. Observe the School Rules. Do not "Copy," nor Cheat in any way. Do not Cut the Docks, nor Write in the Reading Books, etc. Never let another be Punished in mistake for yourself; this is Cowardly and Mean.
AT PLAY	Do not Cheat or Gamble. Do not Bully; only Gamble do this. Be Pleasant and not Quarrelsome. Do not live at your Schoolmates, or call them by Names which they do not like.
IN THE STREET	Salute your Mission, Teachers, and Acquaintances when you meet them; they will salute you in return. Do not Push nor run against people. Do not Climb on doors, walls, nor gates. Do not Throw Stones, nor destroy Property. Do not Annoy Shopkeepers by Loitering at their shop doors and windows. Do not make Slides on the pavement, nor throw Orange Peel or Banana Skins (these dangerous accidents often cause many heavy accidents). Do not make Fun of Old or Crippled People, but be particularly polite to them, as well as to Strangers and Foreigners.
AT TABLE	Always Wash your Hands and Face before coming to the Table. Do not put your Knife in your Mouth. Look after Older People; do not Help yourself only. Do not be greedy. Do not Speak nor Drink with Food in your Mouth. Turn your head away from the Table and put your Hand or Handkerchief before your Mouth when you Sneeze or Cough. Do not sit with your Elbow on the Table.
EVERYWHERE	Never be Rude to anybody, whether older or younger, richer or poorer, thin or stout. Remember to say, "Please" or "Thank You"; "Yes, Sir," or "Yes, Ma'am"; "No, Sir," or "No, Ma'am." Before entering a room it is often courteous to Knock at the Door. Do not forget to close the door gently after you. Always show attention to Older People and Strangers by opening the door for them, bringing what they require (hat, chair, etc.), giving up your seat to them if necessary, and in every possible way serving their needs. Never interrupt when a person is speaking. Always Mind your own Business. Be Pleasant. Be Tidy.
REMEMBER	All these rules regarding your conduct towards others are included in the one GOLDEN RULE: "Always do to others as you would wish them to do to you if you were in their place." Whenever, therefore, you are in doubt as to how you should act toward others ask yourself this question: "How should I like them to act towards me if I were in their place?" and then do what your conscience tells you is right.

The correct thing to do
and say;

Is the kindest thing in
the kindest way.



Lord, we pray that we will seek peace and pursue it (Psalm 34:14)
We ask that Your love will help us to be polite and not rude, to put others first instead of being self-seeking, to be tolerant instead of easily angered, and to be quick to forgive instead of keeping a record of wrongs.
Amen.