

Positive Parenting

The Polite Teen

The following questions provide parents with a guideline to talk about manners and etiquette at home.

- Why are manners and etiquette important?
- How do you think I should go about helping you with the rules and skills?
- What is a good time for us to polish these rules and skills?
- What area do you see yourself needing to improve?
- Do you think appearance is important? Why?
- Why do you think rules for dating are necessary?
- Would you be comfortable dining formally?
- Would you feel competent at a job interview?
- Is swearing appropriate? Why? Why not?
- Why is it important to treat someone with kindness and respect?

The Top Ten Most Important Tips for Teens

1. Treat people and property with respect.
2. Be kind to others.
3. Help others both at home and in the community
4. Resolve conflicts peacefully.
5. Be sociable.
6. Dress for the occasion.
7. Participate in family events and traditions.
8. Practice your listening skills.
9. Be reliable and responsible. e.g. Call if you're going to be late.
10. Be aware of what the social situation expects of you. e.g. going to a wedding, funeral.

Parent Tool Kit for Manners

- Model appropriate behaviour
- Think ahead for what might be required, e.g. dressing for an occasion
- Point out polite behaviour, e.g. thank you notes
- Explain what is expected at certain functions and events
- Buy an age appropriate book on etiquette
- Practice with your teen, e.g. eating at a restaurant
- Point out social blunders privately
- Avoid embarrassing your teen
- Encourage and praise good manners and behaviour
- Expect consistency
- Use humour whenever possible
- Learn to say “I’m sorry” and “I apologize”

Dining

Please Do

- Say please and thank you
- Put your napkin on your lap
- Participate in conversation

Please Don't

- Start eating until everyone is seated
- Talk with your mouth full
- Take more than you can eat

Dating

Please Do

- Introduce your date to your parents
- Inform your parents of your plans
- Be home on time

Please Don't

- Be late for your date
- Go to places that are not safe
- Pressure your date

Interviews

Please Do

- Shake hands
- Be enthusiastic and prepared
- Use appropriate body language

Please Don't

- Be late
- Dress casually
- Forget to thank the interviewer

Tip: Teens need adults to guide them.