

Making Manners Fun!

(second in a series of articles)

Family Manners that PARENTS LOVE!

-By Judi- The Manners Lady

The most important place to learn good manners and to live with good manners is at home... with the people who love us the most—our family and with our moms and dads.

If we learn to be respectful, grateful and well-mannered at home, it will be natural for us to be respectful, thankful and well-mannered out in public—whether at restaurants, grocery stores, or in a hockey game... as well as being respectful to police officers, elected officials, and to our Pastor and Sunday School teachers. So let's have some fun on this adventure as we work on our inner manners (our attitudes) and see how they affect our outer manners (what we do!)

Let's start by learning how we can show respect to the people who love you and know you the best... your family! Let's practice our HOME MANNERS!

Here are a few tips that not only make our parents really proud of us... but life at home will be smoother, easier and more fun!

Our parents are so happy and proud of us when...

We honour them by showing RESPECT to them!

I don't know about at your house, but it seems that sometimes we're rudest to the people we love the most! And then we're super nice and polite to people we don't even know very well. So let's start by trying to be nicest to the people who love us the most in the whole world... our moms & dads!

Our parents are like a giant umbrella over us—to protect us from bad things that might happen to us. They have family rules and guidelines to protect us and to make family life more fun and fair for everyone! If we learn and practice all the neat stuff about life and good manners that our parents teach us at home, then it will be natural for us to keep doing them at school and in the community. If we learn to obey and respect our parents at home, then it will be so much easier and natural for us to obey and show respect to our teachers—then police officers—and someday our boss at work!

Whenever we think we know more than our parents or think we can do it "better" than they can, and we get out from under the protection of our parents' "umbrella"... it's dangerous for us and bad things can happen.

How can we show respect to our parents? Listening to them.

Looking at them when they're talking to us. Obeying quickly—and with a good attitude. Not “talking back” to them or ever saying anything bad about our parents.

2. We honour them by obeying them quickly, and with a good attitude... They love it when we obey “right away without delay.”

Our parents are so happy and proud of us when we honour them by obeying quickly—and with a good attitude—and not just on Father's Day or Mother's Day!

When your parents call you—obey quickly, and with a good attitude! Your parents don't call you just to bug you or interrupt your video game! They call you because they need you for something! Maybe they need your big muscles to help carry in the groceries. Maybe dinner is ready! Yum! Maybe they're going to surprise you and take you out to a movie... but if you hide and pretend that you don't hear them calling... you'll miss out on something really cool!

If you learn to obey quickly when your parents ask you to do little things, it will become natural for you to obey them in big things! And if you learn to obey your parents at home... it will be natural for you to obey your teachers at school, and then when you get older, it will be natural for you to obey a police officer or your boss at work! (After all, if you don't obey the officer, he could put you in jail, and if you don't obey your boss, he could fire you!)

So if you hear your mom or dad calling, jump up quickly and call back with a good attitude, “Yes Mom!” or “Yes Dad!” Or “Yes Ma'am!” “Yes Sir!” “Here I come!” And then go see what they need. Don't just yell back up the stairs, “Yeah Mom... What do you want?” Maybe she's with your sleeping baby brother and can't yell back. Don't make your parents come to you. Show respect to them by going quickly to them to see what they need. Look them in the eyes when they're talking to you. And listen politely, without interrupting.

3. Our parents love it when we wear our “HAPPY EYES!”

This is so important. If we obey by coming quickly... but we show up with “bad attitude eyes”... we're not really obeying... because it shows that our body is obeying... but our heart attitude is disobeying. When your mom calls you, come quickly and **wear your “happy eyes”** (not your bad attitude eyes!)

When you answer the phone, “Hi! This is Sarah speaking. May I help you?” **Wear your “happy eyes!”** When you are walking down the street or you're in the line up with your parents at the grocery store, it's really nice when a child greets a grown up with a cheerful hello—wearing your happy eyes! (It really makes their day!) When your parents introduce you to one of their friends, “Mrs. Fulton, I'd like you to meet my daughter, Virginia. Virginia, I'd like you to meet my friend, Mrs. Fulton.”... then it's WONDERFUL when **wear your**

“happy eyes” when you smile at Mrs. Fulton and say cheerfully, “It’s nice to meet you, Mrs. Fulton!” (Your mom will be SO proud of you, and it will really make Mrs. Fulton feel special!)

4. For our brothers and sisters—and are nice to them!

Next to your parents, there is no one in the whole world who loves and admires you more than your little brother or sister. They might not tell you, but they are watching you all the time, because when they grow up, they want to be just like you! You’re their hero! You might not realize it, but your little brothers and sisters ADORE you! They want to be JUST LIKE YOU! So be nice to them!

Upcoming issues, watch for:

R-E-S-P-E-C-T for Elders... Especially Grandma & Grandpa

The Five Fabulous Phrases that can change the world

Terrific Telephone Manners

Table Manners

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Judi Vankevich is a high energy speaker, author and recording artist known affectionately to children and parents across the U.S. and Canada as “Judi The Manners Lady” and is founder and President of The Manners Club & Life Skills, Int’l. Featured on Focus on the Family, 100 Huntley Street, Canada AM, Parenting Today and The Toronto Star, Judi’s vision is to provide fun and practical resources for parents to do the job that God has called us to do. Through the power of her songs and interactive concert in public schools and churches, Judi is impacting the next generation by teaching important life skills - and she makes it fun! Her award-winning CD (available at Christian bookstores,) “It’s Fun to Have Good Manners!”

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