

Positive Parenting

Social Skills: A Family Guideline

Social Skills are the skills/rules we need to learn in order to get along successfully with family, friends and others in our daily lives. These skills/rules should be taught and practiced at home as soon as the child is aware of the presence of others.

As young as age one or two, children are ready to learn manners. You can teach your child to say please, thank you, and excuse me. Through daily practice, children can develop the habit of being polite. These habits will last a lifetime.

Politeness: using appropriate social manners.

Manners: acceptable social behaviour.

If a parent makes the effort when the child is young, it is likely the child will enjoy greater happiness and possibly success in the school, home and community. Children with well-developed social skills and manners have the tools they need to be accepted by others.

What Parents Can Do

- Respect your child so she/he learns to respect others.
- Teach social skills appropriate to the given situation. e.g. introducing others.
- Always model appropriate social skills. e.g. hat off in a restaurant.
- Let your child know what may be expected when going somewhere.
- Teach polite ways of interrupting. e.g. joining in an adult conversation.
- Encourage your child to use a quiet voice. e.g. church, library.

Expectations of Behaviour

At Home

- Saying please, thank you and excuse me
- Following household rules
- Practicing conversation

At School

- Being polite
- Learning the school rules
- Following the school rules

With Friends

- Asking permission
- Sharing
- Being kind

On the Playground

- Taking turns
- Hands off
- Allowing others to play

Shopping

- Not wandering unattended
- Helping to choose items
- Not touching

In a Restaurant

- Staying seated when appropriate
- Speaking quietly
- Using 'please' and 'thank you'

TIP: Start early (it's never too late) and practice, practice, practice!