

The Do Right List

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Good manners are great gifts we give our children and one another. “Hello,” “thank you,” and “goodbye” are words that may garner a good response or crimp a smile on the face. Besides encouraging good manners, I generated a “Do Right List” of a few things that are just plain right to do.

We taught our children many on this list:

- Answer the telephone with “Hello, this is _____, may I help you?”
- When using the restroom, close the toilet seat and flush the toilet, and wash your hands and wipe the sink off after use.
- Send a thank-you note when you’ve received a gift or been someone’s guest.
- Address adults by their last names unless given permission otherwise by the adult.
- Arrive on time to functions.
- Remember to R.S.V.P. to an invitation on or before the requested due date.
- Present a host/hostess gift when attending a function in someone’s home.
- When dining in someone else’s home, wait for the host/hostess to begin his/her meal before eating.
- Chew food with your mouth closed and avoid speaking with food in your mouth.
- As you first enter a room/gathering, greet everyone with a “hello.”
- When meeting someone, firmly shake the person’s hand . . . don’t forget to make eye contact.
- Young ladies: Smooth your dress/skirt when sitting and carefully cross your legs at the ankles.
- Keep posture straight while sitting and walking.
- Wait patiently rather than interrupting a conversation. If you must speak, “Excuse me” is the proper way to interject.
- As an overnight guest in a home, be sure to make your bed and pick up your things.

I know this all may sound old-fashioned, but some common sense things are just right to do. A “Do Right List” makes sense in the adult world, yet it begins by teaching our children early!

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