

### Groom Your Kids for Success

A few weeks ago, I was at a relative's wedding dinner when my 8-year-old niece-Kalista had to visit the washroom midway through the dinner. A little girl and her mother were a few steps ahead of us on our way to the washroom. As they entered the washroom, the lady turned back and saw us, but instead of holding the door for us, she let it slam shut, right in our faces!



"Why did the lady do that to us?" Kalista asked. Her question had a quick, easy answer: "She was being rude, dear". However, it raised a more disturbing issue in my mind: there are many people who are casually discourteous these days, and their behaviour creates the wrong notions of acceptable behaviour in the minds of young children. We need to oppose that mindset by teaching children that politeness is the only acceptable behaviour.

#### Why Teach Children about Manners & Etiquette

Good social skills, manners and proper etiquette do not come naturally. They have to be taught. Teaching manners and etiquette to children during their early years instill in them important values that are the basis of good manners - kindness, tolerance, consideration and respect for others. Learning manners and etiquette also help build children's self-esteem as it gives them the self-confidence to handle any social situation they may be thrust into.

#### When to Teach Children about Manners & Etiquette

It is never too early to start because children are able to understand rules of graciousness by the age of three or four. Rules such as saying "thank you", not talking loudly in a theatre and chewing with their mouth closed should be taught during the early years. Some may think "My kid is still young, what is the big deal if the little one uses his fingers to eat or if he chews noisily?" Think ahead. Fast-forward a few years from now and your kid's conduct won't be so cute anymore. In fact, it will be a great challenge for them to change these "cute" habits in the later part of their lives if they are not corrected while young.

#### Give Your Child an Early Edge in Life

Politeness gives children an edge that will help them succeed in life. People generally respond better to kids who show respect for others through good manners; while children with poor social graces are more likely to have a difficult time with friends, family and teachers. Equip your child with good manners and give them the gift of essential lifelong survival skills.

*Article by Alexis Wan, Chief Image Consultant/Trainer/Speaker from D' New Image Chapter*

"**Groom Yourself for Success**" (for kids 9-12 years old) is a fun and interactive program that imparts good personal grooming habits, deportment intelligence, social skills, manners and etiquette to children.

The objective is to increase children's self-esteem by making them feel confident in different social situations as well as to teach them to love and take care of themselves and their appearances.

For more information about the workshop or other programs, please visit [www.dnic.com.sg](http://www.dnic.com.sg) or email [alexis@dnic.com.sg](mailto:alexis@dnic.com.sg)