

Teaching Respect to Children

by Greg S. Butler, Associate MFT, Trainer/Staff Writer

Respect is an essential value we teach our children. Teaching your children how to respect others will ensure they have the tools to develop positive relationships with everyone in their life, including in the realms of family, friendships, and business. Learning to respect others will benefit your children time and time again as they grow into adulthood.



Some aspects of respect that parents should teach children include:

Good manners - Teaching your children good manners can have benefits that last them a lifetime. Good manners are a demonstration of respect. A simple "please" or "thank you" can go a long way in developing relationships of all types. With practice, the gestures of good manners will become second nature to your children. By practicing good manners, children discover that all relationships benefit from the demonstration of respect shown to others.

Tolerance – All children will face conflict throughout their lives. Patience and tolerance are qualities that demonstrate good will in addressing conflict in a positive way. Tolerance is essential for effective communication. Tolerance includes accepting others just as they are; it also involves recognizing your own limitations. Demonstrating tolerance allows for the development of responsibility and is a mature demonstration of respect for self and others.

Listening - Listening is an essential tool for effective communication. Positive communication is a demonstration of respect. Children who know how to listen intently, not interrupt, and take turns in conversation benefit from these abilities and demonstrate respect to others. Listening can help avoid or resolve conflicts, making life more peaceful.

Open-mindedness - Teaching your children open-mindedness helps them avoid judgmental postures and allows them to become kind, caring adults. Accepting diversity is a form of open-mindedness that will benefit your children throughout their lives. Respect demands open-mindedness, and the benefits of maintaining an open mind can be enormous.

One of the best ways to teach children respect is to model the behavior; children are great at copying our behaviors. The benefits of teaching children respect will last them a lifetime and doing so is an important part of effective parenting.

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(818) 968-8586 Fax (888) 778-2423 email: ilenefletcher@hotmail.com

23777 Mulholland Hwy., #165, Calabasas, CA 91302

www.familyvisitationservices.com