

# Do your children use the magic words?

**There are three 'magic' words** that children can learn that will get them a long way in life. These words represent basic social conventions and are considered good manners.

The three 'magic' words that all children should know are:

1. **The use of first names:** Teach children to address others by name when they speak to them. People love hearing their own names. It is like music to their soul.
2. **"Please":** When children show common courtesy they are showing respect and their chances of influencing others increases dramatically.
3. **"Thanks":** We all crave appreciation so when children thank someone for their help or kindness they make the other person feel good and ensure they will get some repeat help.

The use of good manners is the most important social skill that adults can teach children. Manners help children navigate

effectively through their social world and also help them to influence others in positive ways.

Good manners include more than the three 'magic' words. They cover an array of social conventions, including: how to eat in public, how to win and lose gracefully and how to answer a telephone.

The best way to help children develop good manners is through teaching and modeling. Gradually explain to children what they should say and do in social situations and model the behaviours you want children to learn. Children need to see adults use common courtesy when they interact with each other and with them.



## Quick Parenting Quiz

1. **You can promote a child's self-esteem by:**
  - a) The regular use of encouragement
  - b) Comparing a child to a brother or sister
  - c) Teaching the skills of independence
  - d) Encouraging him or her to participate in different activities
2. **Children believe parents favour one child over another when:**
  - a) Giving birthday presents
  - b) Disciplining
  - c) Using praise
  - d) Giving pocket-money

Answers: 1a), c) and d) 2b)

## Vitamins for parents

Four social skills to teach children:

1. How to play fairly
2. How to be a good winner and loser
3. How to join in a game or conversation
4. How to ask for help

## Bright idea



### One at a time...

Sometimes it is hard to teach children everything at once, so it is helpful to focus on one skill or term at a time. Concentrate on one aspect of good manners each day to model and teach children. Exaggerate the use of 'thanks' or 'please' to reinforce these basic social conventions for your children.

## Wise & Witty Words

"A man knows he is growing old because he begins to look like his father."

*Gabriel Garcia Marquez*

"Consistency is the most important element in a parent's relationship with their children."

*Sal Severe*