



Courtesy: Getting Started

Inspiring Words

To the mothers must be given the divine Teachings and effective counsel, and they must be encouraged and made eager to train their children, for the mother is the first educator of the child. It is she who must, at the very beginning, suckle the newborn at the breast of God's Faith and God's Law, that divine Courtesy may enter into him even with his mother's milk, and be with him till his final breath.

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 138)

Printables

Page 1: Spiritual Treasure Box Projects
Page 2: Devotional
Page 3: Booklet
Page 4: Radiant Hearts Book Template
Page 5: Monthly Letter Template
Page 6: Daily Activity #14
Page 7: Daily Activity #15
Page 8: Daily Activity #18

See the "Printable" document for these pages.

Questions to Consider

How do I currently model Courtesy?

What are ways I would like to model Courtesy better?

How does my child currently exhibit Courtesy?

What aspects of showing Courtesy can I help my child work on?



Courtesy: Foundation

Prayer

O Lord! Make this youth radiant, and confer Thy bounty upon this poor creature. Bestow upon him knowledge, grant him added strength at the break of every morn and guard him within the shelter of Thy protection so that he may be freed from error, may devote himself to the service of Thy Cause, may guide the wayward, lead the hapless, free the captives and awaken the heedless, that all may be blessed with Thy remembrance and praise. Thou art the Mighty and the Powerful.

('Abdu'l-Bahá, Baha'i Prayers, p. 36)

Courtesy

Quotation

...observe courtesy, for above all else it is the prince of virtues.

(Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 88)

Courtesy

Introduction to the Virtue

Courtesy is being polite and having good manners. When we are courteous, we use words like "please", "thank you", "excuse me", and "you're welcome" to show people we respect them. When we are courteous, we speak and act in a way that shows consideration for others' feelings.

When do you say "please" and "thank you" to someone?

How do you feel when people use kind words and kind voices?

What is courteous behavior when you meet someone new?

Courtesy

Songs

Courtesy

(Nabil H., Virtues In Us #21)

Hello how are you
Hello how are you

I'm fine, thank you
I'm fine, thank you

This is a virtue that I know
Courtesy helps me grow and
grow

Courtesy

Magic Words

When someone gives me something I say "thank you"
When someone helps me out I say "thank you"

Chorus:

I can see it makes them happy when I say it so
politely. Yes, courtesy means to say my magic words.

If I spill my drink at lunch I say "I'm sorry"
If I hurt someone's feelings I say "I'm sorry"

If I bump into someone I say "excuse me"
If I need to interrupt I say "excuse me"

Courtesy

Courtesy: Daily Activities

Activities for Every Month

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| 1. Spiritual Treasure Box project (prayer). | 2. Assemble the booklet. | 3. Make a Monthly Letter. |
| 4. Spiritual Treasure Box (quotation). | 5. Make Radiant Hearts Book page. | 6. Add a jewel to the Crown of Virtues. |

Games and Role Plays

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| <p>7. "Today we're going to make a race track and practice using magic words." Create a track out of blocks, with chalk, or using a line of rocks outside. Have some cars for your child and yourself, and have the cars follow the track. If they need to pass each other say "excuse me" and use other magic words such as "thank you," "please," and "sorry." Courtesy</p> |
| <p>8. "Today we're going to practice waiting politely for someone to finish talking." Use a phone (or a pretend phone) to take turns receiving calls and have the person not talking wait patiently. If the person not on the phone needs to speak to the person on the phone, practice saying "excuse me." Practice waiting patiently also in a group of people, such as when your child needs to speak to you when you are talking with a group of grown-ups. Courtesy</p> |
| <p>9. "Today we're going to practice our table manners." Pretend you are eating at a restaurant. Practice ordering politely, being patient waiting for the food to come, saying thank you when the food arrives, trying new foods, and playing quietly at the table until everyone finishes their food. Talk about how people work hard to prepare food in a restaurant (the cook, the waiter, the cleaner, etc) and how we can show our gratitude by being respectful and courteous. Courtesy</p> |
| <p>10. "Today a friend is going to teach how to show courtesy when we are sick." Have a puppet show your child how to say "excuse me" after a sneeze, covering their mouth with an arm when they cough, and wiping/blowing their nose with a tissue. Making sure you do not spread germs, especially when sick, is courteous. Courtesy</p> |
| <p>11. "Today we're going to practice courtesy when someone comes to the door." Have a doll outside the door. Welcome the doll in and say, "Nice to meet you." Ask polite questions and help your child answer courteously. Show your child how to ask a guest to sit down, offer a drink, say "excuse me" to leave, etc. Talk about the importance of welcoming others into our home and showing hospitality. Courtesy</p> |
| <p>12. "Today we're going to practice courtesy during prayers." Pretend you are saying prayers at someone's house. Practice sitting in a reverent way, closing eyes, and keeping hands and feet still. Tell your child to listen for words with pictures they can see in their mind, waiting quietly while each person prays. Talk about the meaning of prayer, how we are talking with God, and how it is a special time. Courtesy</p> |

Courtesy: Daily Activities (continued)

Creative Arts

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| <p>13. "Today we're going to make a Talking Stick." When in a group of people, we practice courtesy by taking turns talking and listening politely when others have their turn. A Talking Stick is a prop that helps people know whose turn it is to talk. When someone is holding the Talking Stick, everyone else must be quiet and listen to them. Then they hand the Talking Stick to the next person. Make a Talking Stick by finding a stick, tying things to it such as ribbons with beads or feathers, and decorating with stickers or colored tape. Practice using it together. Courtesy</p> |
| <p>14. "Today we're going to make Courtesy Stars." Use the stars on page 6 of the Printables to talk about many different courteous behaviors. You may like to color them in one by one as you practice the behavior, or cut them out and keep them in an envelope. Courtesy</p> |
| <p>15. "Today we're going to role play receiving and giving gifts and practicing courteous behavior." Decorate the presents on page 7 of the Printables and give them to each other, practicing "thank you" and "you're welcome." Courtesy</p> |
| <p>16. "Today we're going to create a crown of courtesy." Read the first quotation from the Devotional on page 2 of the Printables. Make a crown decorated with suns to represent being illumined with the light of courtesy. When we are courteous, others are attracted to our polite behavior and we also feel happy. Courtesy</p> |
| <p>17. "Today we're going to learn about being courteous in a quiet place and create a sign for remembering this." There are some places where we need to be quiet such as the library or a restaurant. Being courteous in these places means we respect that people there need a quiet atmosphere, so we use quiet voices and are careful not to make loud noises. Putting your index finger over your lips is a way to sign "Please be quiet." Practice this sign or make up your own together. Pretend you are in one of these places (or go to one) and practice using the sign to remind each other of courteous behavior. Courtesy</p> |
| <p>18. "Today we're going to make a Magic Word jar." Print out the cards on page 8 of the Printables and place them in a jar. Take turns picking a card and acting out a situation when the phrase would be needed. These courteous phrases are called Magic Words because they help other people feel respected and cared for. Courtesy</p> |
| <p>19. "Today we're going to create a Courtesy Banner." Tape several pieces of paper together or get a large poster board. Write "Courteous Behavior" and illustrate all the examples of courtesy you can. This is how your family shows courtesy! Courtesy</p> |

Visit the Online Lesson where you can see example photos of the daily activities, listen to the songs, and download the "Printables" document for this lesson:

<http://www.enablemetogrow.com/courtesy/>