

# Making MANNERS FUN!



By Judi, The Manners Lady

do you ever feel overwhelmed with all the things we as teachers and parents are supposed to teach our children to help them be successful in life?

Reading ... writing ... arithmetic ... study habits ... music lessons ... money management ... household chores ... self-discipline. The list is endless. In the race to learn these valuable things, sometimes some of the most important life skills get overlooked.

playgroup. And good manners will open a lot of great doors for all of us, and for our children – both now and throughout our whole life journey.

We don't want good manners to be something "fake" that our children "put on" to impress people just when it's convenient. Rather, we want their good manners to become an integral part of their character ... who they are when they wake up in the morning and how they act all day long – even at bedtime!

### Doing the Right Thing

Children love to do things right! They just need to be shown how ... and you can make it fun! Children love to role-play different situations in advance, so when they're in the actual situation, they'll know the right thing to do. They especially love doing it the "wrong" way first (they think it's hilarious), and then doing it the "right way." They are so proud when they see how happy their teachers or parents are when they obey "right away without delay" and come quickly with a good attitude – no whining and complaining – wearing their "happy eyes!"

I love to see the delight in the face of my six-year-old son, Zuri, when he sees how proud I am of him when I "catch" him doing something good – like the time he offered his seat to an elderly lady on the bus. Or the day my three-year-old, Sammy, turned to the cashier at Wal-Mart and said a cheerful, "Thank you! Have a good day!" It sure made the cashier's day – and mine! Or to see my 10-year-old daughter, Alexi, learn the art of being a peacemaker at school and with her younger brothers. ✨

Anyone who's walked out the front door and gone to any mall, school yard, or sporting event realizes that far too many children these days aren't learning one of the most foundational skills – good manners.

It has been said, "manners are the oil that lubricates society." So every nugget of wisdom and training with regards to manners and life skills that we can build into our children's character at a young age will help not only ease their way ... but also "grease" their way! Plus, they'll have more friends because people will just like being around them!

Good manners help everyone – of all ages – get along better, whether it's saying "Thank you" for a memo that's just been handed to you at the

office; saying "Please" when you ask for the ketchup at the table; or teaching your children to say "I'm sorry" when they've hurt someone at

**Two Simple Rules** There are a zillion little manners for every situation, and it's easy to get overwhelmed. But I think that almost all manners will seem like common sense to our children if we teach them to live by these two simple, yet profound, principles:

1. Treat everyone the way that you'd like them to treat you. We all grew up with this one. Every culture in the world has a version of the "Golden Rule." If you notice your children gossiping or whispering, say to them, "Honey, don't you love it when you hear someone say something nice about you? Well, let's always try to think of only nice things to say about other people, okay?"

2. The second principle follows from the first. Treat everyone in your life with respect. The song on my CD spells it out, "R-E-S-P-E-C-T!" This means honoring your parents by obeying quickly and with a good attitude; respecting your brothers and sisters, peers, and elders; and minding authority figures like teachers, police officers, firefighters, religious leaders, and elected officials.

We also need to show respect to other people's property and to the environment. (Note: I designed a 3-D Respect Diamond that children and teachers love to build and decorate. It reminds us all of the people in our lives to whom we need to show respect. You can request a free copy of The Respect Diamond for your children at [www.TheMannersLady.com](http://www.TheMannersLady.com)).

All ... like saying important "thank you," "excuse me," as well as sharing,



## The Respect Diamond

**TOP**

Glue this side to BOTTOM of diamond

I will be kind & truthful  
**BROTHERS & SISTERS & FRIENDS**

I will respect the owner of the property  
**PROPERTY**

I will respect  
**NATURE**  
because it was created for us to take off!

I will respect  
**AUTHORITY**  
Teachers, Pastor, Priest, Rabbi, Police, Government

I will respect  
**MY ELDERERS**  
I will remember the 'Secret Code' to the 'Interrupt Rule'

I will respect  
**MY PARENTS**  
I will obey 'right away without delay' and wear my 'Happy Eyes'  
[www.themannersclub.com](http://www.themannersclub.com)

**BOTTOM**

Glue this side to TOP of diamond

**instructions:**

1. Have fun decorating your **Respect Diamond**®.
2. Carefully punch out the **Respect Diamond**® along the perforations.
3. Fold along the lines and glue the tabs together.
4. Glue the TOP of the **Respect Diamond**® to the BOTTOM of the **Respect Diamond**®.
5. Try hanging it from a string!
6. Always remember to keep it in your heart... When you show honor and respect to others, your life will sparkle like a **Diamond!**

Former Paris Fashion Model-turned-manners mentor, **Judi Johnston Vankevich**, is a vivacious, high-energy family entertainer known affectionately to children and parents across the U.S. and Canada as "Judi The Manners Lady." Judi has a unique gift of being able to communicate a message of honor, respect, and self-confidence to families in a fun and cool way. Kids love singing along with Judi's songs from her award-winning CD, "Everybody Needs Good Manners." Parents and educators are thrilled with their children's response to Judi's music and her message. Through the power of her songs and interactive show, "Being Cool with the Golden Rule," Judi is impacting the next generation by teaching important life skills – and she makes it fun!

For more information, visit [www.TheMannersLady.com](http://www.TheMannersLady.com) or call 1-866-ASK-JUDI.

obeying, listening, interrupting politely, having table manners, being kind (and not being a bully ... even to your brothers and sisters) – seem to flow naturally from a combination of these two principles:

“Living by The Golden Rule and treating others with respect.”