

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Islamic Manners for Kids

Ten manners to teach first - each one
from a narration

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For parents

Teach it at the moment it belongs to.

The table is where table manners are learned. The Prophet (peace be upon him) corrected a boy's eating at the meal itself, in one short sentence, with no lecture attached.

Correct the action, not the child.

"We eat with the right hand" lands very differently from "why can you never remember".

Keep the ratio sane.

A child who hears ten corrections and no encouragement learns that religion is a stream of corrections. Anas served the Prophet (peace be upon him) ten years and was never once rebuked.

Start with salam.

It is the most repeated and most visible manner a child has, and it opens every other one.

About the sources

Each entry names the collection it is narrated in - Sahih al-Bukhari, Sahih Muslim, Abu Dawud, Tirmidhi, Ibn Majah - or, for the Quran, the exact surah and verse. We give collections rather than hadith numbers because numbering differs between printings. This is a learning aid for families, not a substitute for a teacher or a scholar.

Ten manners to teach first

1. Give salam first

Say As-salamu 'alaykum when you arrive and when you leave. The Prophet (peace be upon him) taught that the one who greets first is closest to Allah, and he gave salam to children when he passed them.

Source: Sahih al-Bukhari, Abu Dawud

2. Say Bismillah, eat with your right hand, eat what is near you

Three instructions given in one sentence to a boy eating beside the Prophet (peace be upon him). It is the clearest example in the Sunnah of teaching a child table manners gently and in the moment.

Source: Sahih al-Bukhari, Sahih Muslim

3. Ask permission before entering

Knock, greet, and wait to be invited in - including at home, and including your parents' room. Permission is asked three times; if there is no answer, you leave.

Source: Sahih al-Bukhari, Sahih Muslim

4. Speak the truth, even when it costs you

Truthfulness leads to righteousness, and righteousness leads to Paradise; a person keeps telling the truth until they are recorded with Allah as truthful.

Source: Sahih al-Bukhari, Sahih Muslim

5. Be gentle with those younger, respectful to those older

"He is not one of us who does not show mercy to our young, nor honour our elders."

Source: Tirmidhi, Abu Dawud

6. Answer a sneeze

The one who sneezes says Alhamdulillah; the one who hears says Yarhamukallah; the first replies Yاهدikumullahu wa yuslihu balakum.

Source: Sahih al-Bukhari

7. Do not waste - not even water

Moderation is commanded even in wudu, and even when performing it beside a flowing river. Waste is not a small matter in Islam.

Source: Ibn Majah

8. Keep your promise

Breaking a promise is named among the signs of hypocrisy in a well-known hadith - which is why a promise made to a child should be kept as carefully as one made to an adult.

Source: Sahih al-Bukhari, Sahih Muslim

9. Be kind to animals

A woman entered the Fire over a cat she confined and did not feed; a man was forgiven for giving water to a thirsty dog. Mercy to animals is not sentimentality - it carries weight.

Source: Sahih al-Bukhari, Sahih Muslim

10. Serve your parents before anyone else

Asked who deserves the best treatment, the Prophet (peace be upon him) said "your mother" three times, then "your father".

Source: Sahih al-Bukhari, Sahih Muslim
