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# Mannersmith

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Dear Family,

Hello ~ today your child participated in a Mannersmith Etiquette Consulting Manners for Minors program. We had a wonderful time and covered the following topics: manners magic words, correct table settings, table topics, preparing for the holidays, and telephone skills. We encourage you to ask your child what he/she learned from the program.

As you know, manners are learned behaviors and therefore, just like sports or a musical instrument, must be practiced. In addition to modeling the correct behavior for your child, here are some games you can play at home to reinforce good behaviors.

- **The Switcheroo**

For this game, have each of your family members “act” like someone else. Use props (such a tie for dad, a scarf for mom, etc.). Encourage your children to ham it up. In addition to your mimicking their behaviors, it is always interesting to see what they have picked up from your behaviors. After the meal switch back and talk about what went on over dinner. Ask what was good and what was bad and how you can all work on being more polite going forward.

- **Oops There Goes Another One**

For this game, a small bowl should be set near each person’s plate. The adults’ should be empty. The children’s should have about 20 small pieces of candy (M&M’s, Reese Pieces, mini-marshmallows, etc.). Then set down a few rules (not too many at a time) such as “Chew with your mouth closed,” and “Ask with Please/Thank you.” When a child forgets a rule, the adult takes one piece of candy from the child’s bowl and places it in the adult’s bowl. Adults should be gentle in tone and laughing to make it fun. Once the adults have a few pieces in their bowls, they can also make mistakes and allow the kids to win back their candy.

Manners are important; teaching them can be fun. I enjoyed spending time with your child today. For more manners information and resources, please visit our website at [www.mannersmith.com](http://www.mannersmith.com).

Sincerely,



Marianne Cohen  
Vice President – Manners for Minors  
Mannersmith Etiquette Consulting