



**Special Free
Report from
Boomer and Halley**

5 Civility Tips that Earn Your Kids a Gold Star!



Hardly a day goes by that we aren't exposed to some example of rudeness. It can be a toxic exchange between politicians or pundits, perhaps an annoying example of road rage, or even a hateful, verbal exchange in our own home. Let's face it. Most people feel civility is a lovely notion we've lost along the way. Take heart. There are plenty of examples of people doing the right thing. I asked parents, grandparents, and experts, to give me some examples of simple ways we can instill good behavior starting with very young children.

1. Have No-Touch Stores

How many times have you been in a store where kids are freaking out their parents by touching and picking up stuff, and then crying if they're not allowed to keep what they want. I asked a friend of mine with young kids what she does in those situations. Her answer: "I tell them we're about

to enter a **No-Touch Store**. That's the message. They know that if they

touch anything in that store, they wind up back in

the car. They know if they disobey me, consequences will follow. I only have to say it once. It works."



2. Bring Back The Look!

What do you do when your child is having a tantrum or making a scene in a public place? How many options do you have without escalating the situation? A grandmother of two grandchildren says boundaries not established are hard to enforce. She offered a short-cut that works for her and her husband. "We give them **The Look**. When we resort to that, they know they're in big trouble and there will be consequences. The important thing, she added, is that they must believe you because you don't back down. Children need to understand the consequences which you've already established BEFORE you give them, **The Look**."



3. Use Pennies Not Plastic



So many parents of young children complain that the youngsters have no concept of how difficult it is to earn enough to buy things. They think you just slide a plastic debit or credit card – and presto! A young father I once interviewed had a creative idea he stole took from his past. He said he found old, glass jars and labeled them sneakers, new skirt, whatever it was his children wanted. The kids were encouraged to put the change they earned for doing chores into the jars. They watched how long it took to be able to buy what they wanted. For the first time, he told me, his kids really began to understand the time and effort that goes into buying something you want.



4. Be Mindful

Sometimes we're not aware of the potential fallout from some of our behaviors. A mother of a young son gave me a great example. She told me she was relieved when she recently talked her way out of a speeding ticket. Her relief turned to dismay when she realized her 7-year-old was watching the whole incident from the back seat. She felt sick when she confronted the reality that she had given her son a life lesson in how to lie your way out of a situation.

It was a moment this young mom will never forget. It was a real-life lesson in understanding the potential long-term effect her actions, good or bad, can have on her children as they make their way in this world.



5. Take Every Opportunity to Teach Good Behavior

Sometimes situations that bother us the most, can be of great benefit to children. I once talked to a radio host who said he hates to go to the mall at Christmas. The crowds and the chaos make him crazy. But, he said, his young daughter wanted to go and buy her mom a present. Reluctantly, he agreed to take her shopping. Once there, he discovered an opportunity he'd never seen before. When a lady dropped her bag, he scooped it up for her. The woman was so appreciative. As they entered stores, the father held the door for his daughter, and reminded her to say "please" and "thank you" to the clerks who helped them. When they overheard conversations where people used bad language, he pointed out that kind of language is not acceptable in their family. In short, the mall turned into an incubator for good behavior training!



There you go!

There are plenty of examples of good behavior going on all around you. Don't let the rude, obnoxious incidents take center stage. You are the best role model in the life of your child, family, friends, and business associates. A good dose of humor can help as well!



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