

# Are manners important?

While on our annual seaside holiday I learnt about four of my youngest family members being rewarded by the shop-keeper.

He was so impressed with their “please” and “thank you” that in recognition of such nice manners in a public place, he gave them a modest pack of lollies each.

He was also impressed with the way they looked him in the eye as they were buying their ice creams.

When a member of the public acknowledges good manners in young children it confirms for them how important and relevant they are.

Are modern families so busy with endless activities that they sometimes overlook the importance of manners?

It should gladden our hearts to see children saying “excuse me”, “thank you”, “please”, and considering the needs of others before their own.

How does your family go with manners? Do you value them, find time to teach them explicitly and see them properly exercised?

Young children who continue on into adulthood with good manners will surely be winners in their immediate surroundings, in the work place, and in life in general.

God made each of us to be relational people, and good manners are just one way of making our relationships richer.

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**How we relate to others is important because life is not a solo – it's a chorus.**

**Ken Packer**