

Parents - If you haven't already read the pages on "Developing Character in Your Children," you might want to go there first before reading these pages.



Why not have the children make a yield sign to display in your home, with the words, "You go first"

Deference

vs. Rudeness

"Limiting my freedom so I do not offend the tastes of those around me."

Tips for Parents to Encourage Deference

It doesn't come naturally for most children to show the character quality of deference. Too often a child displays a "me-first" attitude or lacks the sensitivity to be aware of the needs and tastes of those around him. Here are some suggestions to encourage deference:

Use real life situations to discuss these criteria for deference with your children:

- Were you aware of others around you?
- Did you notice what they preferred?
- What would be the polite thing to do?

Get a book on manners and begin to talk about how a deferential attitude will begin to show in actions called "good manners."

Use conflicts with siblings (or parents) as teaching moments to replay the actions and demonstrate how showing deference to others' tastes can bring a peaceful outcome.

Make a large poster or banner with mountains, trees, and a stream in the background. Leave at least one third of the foreground for meadow or a clearing.

Print out this picture of a wolf and copy or trace it multiple times. Let the children color and cut out the wolves.



(Click to Print)

When a child shows deference to another, put his name on a wolf and add it to the foreground clearing. The children can see that deference enables wolves to live peaceably in a pack of growing numbers!