



Grace and Courtesy in the Infant Years

A Montessori Resource for Parents & Educators

Grace and Courtesy lessons don't start when children can talk—they begin in infancy! Infants and toddlers absorb social behaviors by observing adults. By modeling kindness, respect, and calm interactions, you are already teaching them the foundations of peace.

Why Start Early?

- Infants are in the “absorbent mind” stage (birth–3 years).
 - Babies imitate gestures, tone, and behaviors long before words.
 - Respectful interactions help infants feel safe and valued.
 - Early lessons build empathy, cooperation, and social confidence.
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Everyday Grace & Courtesy Activities



Greetings and Goodbyes

- Wave and say “hello” or “goodbye” to your baby.
- Encourage toddlers to greet others with a smile or wave.



Taking Turns



Free resource developed by www.ChildCareED.com

- Hand toys back and forth with your infant to model sharing.
- For toddlers, practice waiting and passing an item with “your turn/my turn.”

Helping Hands

- Offer a small cloth to wipe up spills together.
- Invite toddlers to help hand out napkins or cups at snack.

Gentle Touch

- Model how to softly touch a toy or a person.
- If a toddler grabs roughly, gently guide their hand and say, “Soft touch.”

Respectful Language

- Always use “please” and “thank you,” even when speaking to infants.
 - Narrate kindly: “I’m going to pick you up now.”
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Quick Tips for Adults

- ✓ Slow down—children learn from your calm presence.
- ✓ Narrate what you are doing with respect.
- ✓ Be consistent with greetings, manners, and tone.
- ✓ Remember: every action is a lesson, even before words!



Reflection Questions

- **How do I model kindness and respect in front of my child daily?**
 - **Am I slowing down enough for my child to observe and participate?**
 - **What small grace and courtesy rituals can I add to our routine this week?**
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✨ **Grace and Courtesy in infancy isn't about memorizing manners—it's about living respect every day. When adults show empathy, patience, and kindness, even the youngest children learn to do the same.**

