

How to Teach Manners at Home for Preschoolers

Manners turn your 3–5-year-old into a polite little star, especially in Pakistani homes where respect is king. Teaching “adaab” and “shukriya” starts at home—here’s how.

Why Manners Matter

Manners help kids navigate social settings, show respect, and build confidence. They also reflect family values, key in our culture.

Simple Manners to Teach

1. **Greetings:** Practice saying “Assalamualaikum” or “Adaab” when meeting elders. Wave “Khuda hafiz” at goodbyes.
2. **Please and Thank You:** Model “Please, pass the roti” or “Shukriya for helping.” Prompt them gently: “What do we say?”
3. **Table Etiquette:** Teach eating with hands neatly (common in Pakistan) or using a spoon. Say, “Chew quietly, no talking with food.”
4. **Respecting Elders:** Encourage touching feet or a polite nod for Nanu or Dadi. Explain why it matters.
5. **Sharing:** During playdates, guide them to share toys: “Let’s take turns with the car.”
6. **Apologizing:** If they bump someone, say, “Say sorry, it was an accident.” Model it yourself.

How to Teach Them

- **Lead by example:** Kids mimic you. Say “shukriya” to shopkeepers or “sorry” when you err.
- **Make it fun:** Role-play a tea party where they practice “please” and “thank you.”
- **Praise efforts:** Cheer, “Wow, you said adaab so nicely!” instead of scolding mistakes.
- **Keep it age-appropriate:** Expect short greetings, not perfect sentences.
- **Repeat gently:** Remind them calmly: “Let’s try saying shukriya again.”

Pakistani Parenting Tips

- **Cultural pride:** Frame manners as part of “tehzeeb” (culture). Share stories of how elders value respect.
- **Joint families:** Enlist Chachu or Baji to reinforce manners during family time.
- **Avoid shaming:** Skip phrases like “Sharam nahi aati?”—they discourage kids.

Challenges

- **Stubbornness:** If they refuse, don't force. Try again later with a game.
- **Over-excitement:** At family gatherings, they may forget manners. Guide them quietly.
- **Consistency:** Align with grandparents to avoid mixed messages.

Good manners take time but shine bright at dawats and school. Your polite preschooler will make you proud!