



Social Skills

Restaurant Etiquette

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Restaurant Etiquette

This activity addresses a life skill adolescents may not have much experience with yet, at least not for certain aspects including making a reservation and getting the check. Eating out is a social experience even when dining alone, because it still involves interacting with servers and possibly hosts/hostesses, cashiers, and busboys. Therefore, it requires perspective taking. With that in mind, I like to discuss how behaviors can affect others, such as why it's not a good idea to arrive at a restaurant close to closing time, or why politeness matters.

Name _____

Date _____

Restaurant Etiquette

Making a reservation:

- When calling, ask for a time and tell how many people: “Hi, I’d like to make a reservation for 7:30 this evening for four people.”

Q: *In what situations should you make a reservation?*

Arriving:

- Arrive with most or all of your people (your party).
- Be aware of closing times—don’t arrive close to closing time.
- Approach host/hostess, make eye contact, say, “Hi, table for ____ (number), please.” or if you’ve made a reservation say “Hi, I have a reservation for ____ (your name).”

Q: *What do you do if not everyone in your party has arrived yet?*

Being seated:

- Follow the host/hostess to the table and say “thank you” when you get to the table.

Q: *What do you do if you don’t like where you’re seated? (How picky is too picky?)*

Ordering:

- Make eye contact.
- Be polite: “Can I have ...” “I would like ...” “Please” “Thank you”
- Try to order everything together (except dessert).
- Don’t say you’re allergic to a certain food when the truth is you just don’t like it.
- Thank busboys or servers each time they bring something, including water and bread.

Q: *Can you ask to switch something, like French fries with your meal instead of rice?*

Eating the meal:

Q: *How could you handle the following situations?*

- you are brought the wrong food
- you are unhappy with your food
- you find a bug or a hair in your food
- you need to get your server’s attention
- you drop a utensil on the floor
- you knock over your drink
- you are celebrating the birthday of one of the people at your table
- the server spills food or a drink on you
- there’s a long line of people waiting for a table watching you eat

Paying:

- To get the bill make eye contact with your server and mouth “check” while making a writing motion in the air with one hand.
- At some restaurants, like diners, you bring the bill to the cash register and pay.
- At other restaurants, you leave your money or card in the check holder and place it at the edge of the table.

Q: *What if you and your friends want to split the bill?*

Q: *How much should you tip?*

Q: *What are the different ways to leave a tip?*

