



**The PoliteChild™**

*Developing Social Skills that  
Last a Lifetime™*

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### **About The PoliteChild™**

The PoliteChild™ is the leading program dedicated to developing excellent social skills in children of all ages — from toddlers to teens — by building solid foundations for learning and using proper social behavior, good manners, and etiquette. The courses are presently hosted at several Puget Sound and Southern California area schools including: Evergreen Academy's Woodinville and Bothell Campuses, Chestnut Hill Academy in Bellevue, multiple Learning Garden campuses, Dr. Carreon Academy (Palm Springs, CA), and Marywood Country Day School (Palm Springs, CA). The program is also offered through YMCAs, neighborhoods, and other independent locations.

Several different courses are available through **The PoliteChild** including:

- SocialSmarts™
- Exploring the Virtues
- Party Manners
- Intermediate Dining and Table Manners
- JobSmarts™ and CollegePrepSmarts™ (for Teens)
- Holiday Manners
- Etiquette for Young Gentlemen and Ladies
- Manners for Special Occasions (weddings, funerals, holidays, etc.)

All courses are designed for specific age groups, from toddlers to teens in order to meet the learning needs of the specific age groups, making them fun as well as educational, and accommodating these needs through class sizes, class length, and content tailored for each age group.

**The PoliteChild** (and its sister program, **The PoliteTeen**) provides a unique approach to teaching good manners and etiquette that supplements or assists parents and school educators in developing good character, important social skills, and with it, strong self-esteem that comes from knowing how to handle oneself in any situation.

Even the youngest age group comes away with an excellent learning experience. While preschool and kindergarten-age may seem too soon to teaching kids to mind their manners, in fact it is never too early to begin to teach our children the fundamentals of good behavior. **The PoliteChild** recognizes that children are at their most malleable in these early years and has designed a program specifically for early learners. Our forté lies in presenting our curriculum in a way that addresses the needs and the issues of the students where they are developmentally and culturally, making our program interesting and relevant.



## What's Unique about Us?

At **The PoliteChild** we dispel a number of “myths” and support this through our distinctive program. These myths include:

- **Manners and Etiquette is something that is old-fashioned and no longer necessary**

Teaching social skills and good manners is more important now than ever. A 1999 poll by ABC NEWS/World News Tonight reported that 73 percent of Americans thought manners were worse than 20 or 30 years ago. And, according to the National Association of Elementary School Principals, lack of good manners is a growing problem in classrooms and playgrounds. Teaching children manners and etiquette is important for developing self-esteem and self-confidence in all social situations – which will become even more important as these children grow into adults entering the professional world. Several recent studies conducted by Harvard University, Stanford Research Institute, and the Carnegie Foundation showed that 85% of our career success depends on social skills.

We all want to be liked and well-respected. Good manners pave the way for an easier, more socially successful life. **The PoliteChild's** unique brand of interactive teaching teaches the tools children need to become socially at ease and adept at managing everyday social situations as well as special circumstances.

- **You don't need an “outsider” to teach etiquette and manners; it should be part of every child's learning.**

Ideally, children should be introduced to and using these critical lifeskills at home, where they can be constantly reinforced. The reality is, however, that many parents may have not been taught the proper rules of good conduct and basic etiquette by *their* parents, or are so busy that traditional venues for learning etiquette – like the family dining table – no longer provide primary teaching opportunities. And, our experience has shown that children often respond better to outside instruction, than they do to their parents' perceived “nagging” about manners and proper behavior.

**The PoliteChild** program includes a number of tools, both for students participating in the courses, and for their parents as well, that helps further educate and reinforce those lessons learned in the classroom. The goal is to transfer these new skills beyond the classroom experience, to help students incorporate them as natural modes of behavior. And, seeing their peers engaged in working on good manners and behavior helps reinforce the message that manners *do* matter!

- **Children in the youngest age groups (toddlers and preschoolers) are too young to learn etiquette.**

Children love to learn, and, just like reading, writing, and arithmetic, the basic foundations of Good Manners and etiquette can be taught to even the youngest



pre-schooler. In fact, early education and adoption of Good Manners can help ensure that these behaviors “stick” and become part of the child’s normal mode of personal interaction.

**The PoliteChild’s** series of courses is designed to meet the educational needs and learning tendencies of the different age groups to which we offer classes, whether they are toddlers, gradeschoolers, ‘twens, or teens. This ensures that students are exposed to and acquire age-appropriate concepts, which is key to engaging them in the learning process and mastering these new skills and developing social self-esteem.

- **Learning good manners and etiquette is boring and dry**  
Learning a new skill – any new skill – is easier if it’s made interesting. Good Manners, social skills, and etiquette are no different. The PoliteChild courses are intrinsically designed to capture the attention and interest of the student – in age-appropriate ways – combining conceptual instruction with hands-on activities and other engaging teaching techniques. Ask a **PoliteChild** student if they’re having fun while they are learning and you’ll see that Etiquette and Good Manners is anything but boring!

While there are certainly other etiquette and “finishing” schools in the market, at **The PoliteChild** we prefer to think of ourselves as the “starting line;” good manners must be adopted early, used consistently, and become part of normal and daily interaction – a new habit – in order for it not to look stilted or affected. We also focus on the foundations of the behaviors, not just the skills alone, which is typical of most “charm” or “finishing” schools. True confidence in dealing with any social circumstances comes with being comfortable with the rules of conduct and proper behaviors.

### **Where is The PoliteChild Offered?**

**The PoliteChild** presently offers its classes as extracurricular programs and core curriculum at several locations in Washington State and California, including Evergreen Academy’s Woodinville and Bothell Campuses, Chestnut Hill Academy, Brighton School, Lake Forest Park Montessori, The Meridian School, the Northshore and Bellevue Family YMCAs, Sacred Heart Catholic School, and Marywood Country Day School with other schools and organizations coming soon. For the latest list of member schools, visit our website at [www.politechild.com](http://www.politechild.com). The classes are also provided at neighborhood and other independent locations. Classes and presentations can be customized for community, social, and church groups.



### **And, finally, does it *work*?**

Since its inception, **The PoliteChild** program has received unprecedented acclaim and support from parents, children, and educators. Parents and teachers alike report seeing immediate improvements in students' awareness of the importance of and use of good manners and positive changes in their behavior. And, our students have a good time learning with us! Here are just some of the comments we've received:

*"It's restoring sanity to the schools."*

- Darlene Dolan, assistant superintendent in Desert Sands Unified School District, Indio, California

*"The first class alone was well worth the cost of the whole course!"*

- Parent of a Chestnut Hill Academy student, Bellevue, WA

*"This program is great! It is very appropriate and well-organized."*

- A Montessori-certified early childhood educator

*"I'd love to have the whole community involved in this program."*

- Colleen W., Woodinville, WA, whose two daughters (ages 4 and 8) attended the program

*"The Parent Guide will be a useful reference tool for years to come"*

- A Woodinville, WA mom of 5 and 8 year old children

*"Elementary schools should offer this!"*

- Woodinville parent of 5-year old son who attended the program

*"You taught more than I expected. I especially like how you tie back their good behavior to how it is beneficial to them."*

- Amanda S., Woodinville

*"As a counselor with the Edmonds School District for the last three years, and a practicing youth counselor in both King and Snohomish Counties for the last 12 years, I highly recommend this course for any parent trying to build a solid foundation for personal growth and healthy interpersonal relationships in their child."*

- Margaret Smith, professional educator/counselor and parent of 5-year old daughter who attended the program



*"I loved the course! My granddaughter looked forward to coming to class and learning. [As a result of the course] she was more aware of how her actions affect others."*

- Grandmother of 7-year old girl who attended the program

The PoliteChild program seeks to positively affect the lives of the children and families it comes in contact with. As a result, we hope to have a positive impact on the communities in which we operate as a whole. For more information on the PoliteChild program or to learn how you can become a member or sponsor of The PoliteChild family, please visit our website at [www.politechild.com](http://www.politechild.com) or you can reach us as the contact information listed below.

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