



We all know that parenting is a job and a half, which needs no interview or initial basic skills.

PROFESSIONAL VS PARENTING ETIQUETTE

BY JANET ADETU

Many of us start the journey to professionalism well before the journey to parenthood. In fact, there is a school of thought that says that, it is wiser to first get a job before you think of getting married. Whether you are a high flying or an upcoming professional who is contemplating or just got married, you are bound to deal with numerous working life issues and fitting into family life, none of which is an easy ride. To build and grow your career you need to maintain high standards and expectations that will portray you as a leader. This also applies to when you decide to get married or become a parent to avoid being overwhelmed by real life challenges.

As you embrace becoming professionally savvy you cannot rule out being a great parent too. You are the ideal role model for your child, and other children around you. There is no better school for the life skills your child will pick up and nature as they grow than the one they will learn from you. Endeavour to master parenting etiquette skills as they are legacies for life and generations to come.

We all know that parenting is a job and a half, which needs no interview or initial basic skills. Mothers, fathers, aunts, uncles, grandparents and even teachers all have this parenting responsibility. Parenting challenges come daily and are often unannounced. Whether parenting an infant, a toddler or a teenager, the experiences are numerous. The important thing is to act with a positive attitude and a teaching, learning, fun and enthusiast frame of mind. The nagging and complaining attitude will only make the parenting experience unexciting complicated and a total burden to your life. Of course age, exposure and self-experiences will determine how we perform as parents. Our own upbringing, general behaviour and etiquette knowledge impacts how much knowledge to disseminate to your children. This is the epitome of how your child will grow up and develop in life.

What is your role as a parent?

I have listed a basic idea of what is expected of you as a parent.

- Impact good values
- Inculcate and leave a good legacy
- Teach life expectancies
- Acknowledge life challenges and tasks
- Emphasise responsibility and good judgement
- Show love and respect
- Determine acceptable virtues and belief systems
- Aspire for greatness and success
- Show leadership traits, coverage and confidence
- Be a great role model
- Portray good behaviour and impeccable manners (your child is constantly watching and mirroring you.)

Remember that you made the choice to be a parent by accepting your child into the world, giving your child a name and smothering him or her with that initial love.

It goes without saying that you cannot parent your child as a toddler forever. The 21st Century demands require you to be technically updated in terms of entertainment, social media are heavy exposure.

The implication is that it has become a challenge to raise the teens and youth. Life comes in phases and the toughest I would say is being a teenager parent.

11 TIPS ON PARENTING ETIQUETTE

(i) Lead by Example

Once again, remember that your child will mirror you. They will act and preach what you do and not what you say. Let your child be a positive chip off the old block. Ensure that your lifestyle shows a positive enforcement of discipline, direction, harmony and leadership traits.

(ii) Life Skills

Teach your child good manners, proper meeting and greeting skills, cleanliness and best behaviour at all times as these will prepare them for a higher level of confidence and self-esteem. Encourage etiquette and protocol training through youth camps or workshops to contribute towards life skills training.

(iii) Value of Education

A reasonably good education is the best legacy you can give to your child. Encourage your child to understand that to succeed in life acquisition of basic advanced knowledge is essential. Your child's aspirations, goals, and achievements should be encouraged and emphasised. Be informed and empowered.

(iv) Money Power (importance, usages)

Every child knows that without money they cannot acquire things of their hearts desire. "Money does not grow on trees" they say, so every child must know that hard work is the root of success. In the same light, it is important to emphasise the art of saving for a rainy day or a given purpose. The ability to know the value of money and the need to handle it with great care in today's global economy is of utmost priority. Teach your child how to invest.

(v) Respect for Elders

Some cultures do not play around with the need to respect those who are older than you. Respect for elders should not just include the very elderly, but any adult who is much older than that child. When your child sees people that are much older it is a rule that they greet them with honour and respect, offer to help or assist them at all times when needed without being asked. A respectable child will always be seen as a well behaved child; likeable and lovable.

(vi) Dining Etiquette (which knife and which fork?)

A well-mannered child shows best traits at the dining table. Without running the risk of laying too much emphasis on culture, your child should know basic dining etiquette, and proper behaviour whilst at the dining table. Do not allow your child to be too comfortable using the wrong method of cutlery usage. Correct all mistakes always.

(vii) Magic Words

'Please', 'Thank you', 'Excuse me'

Yes these may sound so common that our children have taken them for granted. If used every day at home, out of common courtesy, they should not pose any difficulty. Appropriate use of these words will leave a great impression on the hearts and minds of

those around. When a good deed has been done, or your child has been offered a reward, or a kind gesture, 'thank you' is in order. No matter which country or nationality, 'merci', 'gratious', 'asante', 'danke seun, ese', teach your child to use always. As parents try to use these words yourself extensively.

(viii) Meet and Greet

Does your child or your children run and hide when visitors come to the house? It is good to practice the art of confidence building with your child/children from a young age. Ensure that your child cultivates the habit of pleasant greeting of your friends, colleagues, relations. Teach your child the right words to say when greeting someone. Make it a point of duty that they come down and meet necessary visitors like friends and family and say a decent greeting. The pride and glory is yours.

Example: "Hello Ma, (Aunty/Uncle), I'm Susanna, nice to meet you."

(ix) Chores

Many children enjoy being looked after by a nanny or older relative, so most times do get a lot done for them. To keep their bedroom clean does become a huge issue for most teenagers and a burden to parents. Your child is never too young to learn the art of responsibility. Exercise the art of giving your child a sense of responsibility by giving him or her regular daily or weekly chores. This will nurture them into a regular routine assignment and alleviate laziness traits that may be cultivating.

Find ideal chores for your child to do willingly and not grudgingly. Start with their room, bed, bathroom, clothing, shoes. Washing plates, emptying out the trash, washing dad's car, cooking Sunday lunch, making up the bed, putting dirty washing in the washing machine are but a few ideas you may practice with your child.

(x) Health and Hygiene

It must not go to pass without mentioning the need to teach your child personal hygiene no matter the age. Waking up to have a good shower, brush teeth, groom hair, use of body cream and deodorants is mandatory. Ensuring that clothes worn are perfectly clean and odourless must be taken seriously. Your child could exhibit leadership traits, therefore must acknowledge that image and appearance is the number one criteria.

(xi) Share the Spirit

Teach your child the need to give to the poor and the needy. Let them recognise that generosity and charity is very rewarding, the spirit of giving must be shared. Take your child with you to charity walks, shows and events, to appreciate that the less privileged have a life to live too. Everything in life is not gold. Good luck in your mission as a parent.

These tips should be read over again and again to make this journey smoother.

E

I would love to know about your experience of parenting contact on: info@etiquetteconsortium.com