



TODAY'S FEATURE

Mind Your Manners

Bobby's got his elbows on the table. Uncle Joe won't stop burping, and your husband refuses to put his napkin on his lap. Emily Post would be shaking her gloved hand and turning dummies in her grave if she could see your family now. Not exactly the poster-children for etiquette.

What Ms. Post doesn't know is that you've just virtually guaranteed that by the time New Years rolls around, your family will be oozing with politesse. That's because you picked up Mannerisms, a unique game designed to teach table etiquette and sure to add decorum to any dinner. Creator-moms, Roz Heintzman and Carolyn Hyland, were looking to fill a gap in the market for all things relating to manners – specifically manners and children. After some informal market research, a business plan was formulated and, with the help of friends and family, Mannerisms came to life.



One box of Mannerisms comes with twenty-five cards, each bearing one code of conduct. Each is sweet, lyrical, and easy to remember, such as "Food to mouth, not mouth to food. In this way, you won't seem rude." Each night, your family draws a new card from the stack and spends the meal perfecting it. The Mannerisms website offers ways for you to make games out of the cards and welcomes suggestions about new games.

So, Ms. Post, if you're listening, take heart. We have listened and are continuing your quest of global comportment. Just don't blame us if Uncle Joe lets one slip.

Available at www.mannerisms.ca

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