



# Bright Ideas: Rules of Conversation

Sitting around the table for an evening meal is a fun social event for many families. Did you know that this is also an excellent opportunity to educate younger children about the rules of conversation? It is a perfect time to teach them how to listen to others, and how to describe the events of their day. It also provides a great situation for modeling turn-taking and the use of polite language. Soon “Gimme milk” can become “May I please have some milk?”

Family mealtimes can also be a child’s first step to learning about the use of appropriate language for different social situations. The topics of conversation and voice levels used around the table will differ from those children use outside with their friends. Mealtimes can definitely become a valuable opportunity to stimulate language development.

