

Hold the Door: Lessons for My Kids

by Kim Bongiorno of LetMeStartBySayingBlog.com

Hold the door.

Ask the elderly lady how she's doing today. Listen to her reply.

Don't trust everyone. Don't not trust anyone.

Pick up what you saw fall, even if you didn't drop it.

Smile and make eye contact.

Give the benefit of the doubt, especially when you're really cranky.

Give a kid a penny to toss into the fountain.

Be strong enough that people know not to mess with you,

but soft enough that people know they can hug you.

Don't park in handicap parking spots unless it actually applies to you.

Don't sneak extra items in the 12 or Less lane at the grocery store.

Be light in your heart and steady on your feet.

Trust your gut, both good and bad.

Take chances that won't hurt yourself or others.

Learn to make people laugh without making anyone cry.

Remember how good your life is.

Think before you act.

Write down birthdays.

Get mad, but don't get even.

Admit to your mistakes.

Share.

Use *please*, *thank you*, and *excuse me* every day.

Do the work it takes to make a good life for yourself.

Don't take advantage of the kindness of others.

Absorb the lessons you learn the hard way.

Look for rainbows, no matter how rare they may be.

Know that when you look away from an electronic screen,

the most important connections to be made are all around you.

Tell people when you are proud of them.

Don't make it hard for others to make you happy.

Offer to shovel her driveway if you know her husband's away.

Don't say "I know how you feel" even if you've been there before.

Just say "I'm sorry, what can I do for you?"

Play to win, but play fair.

Someone always has to lose. Sometimes it will be you. Don't whine about it: learn from it.

Show your loved ones your support,

even if what they are excited about bores you to tears.

Offer your seat, your ball, your friends to the new kid.

Return library books on time.

Give credit where credit is due.

Patience and practice will help you learn to tie your own shoes.

They'll also help you do all the other hard things you want to conquer.

Pretend Grandma's fruitcake is delicious.

Try to remember to floss, and not just the week before your dentist appointment.

Let him – and only him – know his fly is down.

Stand up to bullies by being smart and kind.

Learn tact.

Learn what all the basic tools do.

Read to someone who can't. Write notes to someone who can.

Drink water.

Enjoy that cupcake.

Eat your vegetables.

Know who has trouble saying "I love you," and let them show you, instead.

Be the kind of person your mom always knew you could be.