

Being a Good Missionary Guest

prepared by an anonymous, retired missionary wife

These may sound like common sense to many people. However, one person's "common sense" and another person's "common sense" may be very different. These suggestions come from many years of hosting guests and being a guest during deputation, furlough, etc.

1. Remember you are in someone else's home and it should be regarded and treated as so.
2. If you have children it is your responsibility to keep them under control.
3. Do not allow your children to explore the house or to get into the homeowner's things. This needs to be taught from infancy.
4. Children should be taught to not make negative comments about what is served for meals.
5. Children should be expected to pick up the toys that they have played with and to put them back where they found them and the way that they found them. They should not take out more toys until they put the ones that they are playing with away.
6. You should offer to set the table, clear the table, and help clean up after a meal. The host/hostess may not need or want help. Likewise, they may not be comfortable you to help if they do.
7. Give your host/hostess plenty of notice if you will not be eating a meal(s) at their house. If you make other plans, let them know in plenty of time ahead.
8. Make the beds in the morning and keep the room you are staying in looking neat. Strip the beds on your last morning to save the host/hostess doing so.
9. Keep your things neat and picked up during your visit. This will make it much easier when you are getting ready to leave.
10. Leave a Thank-You note and perhaps a small gift when you leave.