

DATING 101¹

BEFORE THE DATE

Plan out your date.

- What will you be doing?
- Where?
- When does the date start?
- When does it end?

Share this information with your date so that your date can share it with their parents.

Visualize the date from beginning to end so that you will be mentally prepared for what to do and when to do it.

Make a list of interesting questions to ask your date.

Clean yourself up. Take a shower. Put on deodorant.

Dress nice.

DURING THE DATE

If you are meeting up in a common area, be the first one there and stand up and greet your date upon their arrival.

You open all doors.

You buy all food, drink and tickets and cover all entry fees.

If you are eating at a restaurant or a food court, then you follow your date to the table. However, if it is very crowded then you lead and make the way to the table.

Pull out your date's chair.

Your date sits down first.

Your date orders first.

¹ My son was 13 at the time of writing these rules.

At the table, place your napkin in your lap.

Do not start eating until your date's food has arrived. Don't eat too fast. Don't eat too loud.

Don't gulp your drink, sip it.

No belching. And, if you cannot help it, say "Excuse me."

If you need your date to pass you an item on the table, don't reach and grab. Ask "Can you pass me the ___?"

No swearing.

No bragging.

No talking poorly about others.

When your date is talking, look them in the eyes and listen.

Ask your date interesting questions (see above).

Be kind and courteous to others around you and your date.

When walking in public, you walk between your date and the street and/or parking lot.

When crossing the street or parking lot, keep your head on a swivel and before crossing make sure that it is safe for you both.

END OF THE DATE

Tell your date "Thank you for a nice night."

AFTER THE DATE

Follow up the next day and tell your date "I had a nice time."

ADDENDUMS:

1. If you have a phone, stay off of it.
2. If your date wants to hold the door for you, let them and say thank you. These rules are your starting point. You and your date will have to find a middle ground where you both can exercise your values.