FAMILY BANQUET

LIFE SKILL:
relating to others

Why hold a family banquet?
Families should take time to reflect on the achievements of individual family members and to celebrate the achievements of the family working together. This activity lets family members know that their contributions, talents, and good qualities are noticed and appreciated.

What do we need?
the family's dinnerware; candles; centerpiece (optional); a special meal; paper and crayons, markers, or pens for making awards; homemade trophies (use scraps of wood, aluminum cans, or even yogurt or milk containers to construct special awards); certificates of merit (use a blank sheet of paper to print up and decorate a personal award in honor of a family member's talents, abilities, or special qualities)

How long will it take?
10 to 15 minutes to explain the activity and to make special assignments; time to prepare awards or coupons (optional); time to prepare the meal and set the table; 20 to 30 minutes after the meal to introduce honored guests and present awards if you decide to do so.

What do we do?
• Find a time when the entire family is together to explain the purpose of this activity and what is involved. A family meeting would be a good time to set a day and plan the dinner.
• Have the family choose a menu for the meal and decide who'll be in charge of preparing it and cleaning up afterwards. Ask for volunteers to set the table.
• Decide if the family wants to draw names to give each other awards, trophies, certificates, or special favor coupons. A special favor coupon could say something like “This coupon is good for one big hug” or “This coupon is good for mowing the lawn twice.”
• One family member can serve as M.C. Begin the banquet by recognizing the family members who prepared the meal and decorated the table. Don't forget to thank the clean-up crew.
• After the meal, take turns introducing the “honored guests” (each other) by emphasizing special traits, qualities, or past deeds. For example, “Our next guest is well known for his sparkling smile and enthusiastic approach to life. How could we forget the time he woke us at 4:30 to watch the sunrise? It gives me great pleasure to introduce someone who has been adding a special warmth to our family ever since he joined us six years ago, our own son and brother...”
• After being introduced, each family member should say something they appreciate or enjoy about belonging to the family. Then she should introduce the next “guest.”
• If the family is exchanging coupons or awards, they can be presented during the introductions.

What happened?

▼ How did you recognize the accomplishments of family members?

What did you learn?

▼ How does being recognized in a “special” way make people feel?
▼ Why does this type of recognition motivate people to continue their efforts?

Why was this activity important?

▼ Why is it important for family members to know that their talents, contributions, and good qualities are appreciated?

What's next?

▼ Would you like to have a family banquet again?
▼ What would you do differently next time?