

*Dear Ms. Manners,*

I recently had an experience while on an elevator at the mall. I have twin girls who are four months old. Just getting to the mall is quite a task in itself with all my paraphernalia. After loading them in my double-wide stroller, I headed into the mall. I wheeled the stroller onto the elevator to head to the second floor. When the doors opened at my floor, I began to push the stroller off, however, was unable to get off due to the fact that a group of teenagers was getting on. They just pushed their way in talking and laughing to each other, apparently not seeing me and my double-wide at all. The doors actually started to close on my stroller. I pushed the doors open and successfully exited while the group just continued talking. I was fuming and ready to go after them to give them a piece of my mind. I know, not very mannerly! I did get to finish my afternoon of shopping and in spite of the rude teens, had a good time. However, after I got home, I started to think about my experience and what the rules really are for elevators and escalators.

—Jenny S.

*Dear Jenny,*

Wouldn't it be nice if we lived in a world where everyone was constantly looking for opportunities to help others, especially mothers of infants and toddlers? I am sure there are many who have experienced the dreadful elevator nightmare that you experienced. Unfortunately, it's not just teens that are elevator offenders. I have seen and been the victim of many adults who have done the very same thing.

Some of the rules are just common sense and others are rules in place to insure consistency, so that things run smoothly. Here's a refresher course:

**ELEVATOR:** If you are waiting to get on an elevator, step to the side when the doors open. Allow all those who wish to exit to do so before entering. If there are just a few waiting to get on, allow those who are older to go first. Men and boys always allow women and girls to get on first. If, however, there is a large crowd waiting to get on, simply follow the crowd and make room for others. On a crowded elevator, the person closest to the control panel should offer to push the buttons for those who can not reach. Now, if you are on an elevator and ready to exit a crowded elevator, do so quickly without blocking the door. If you are not exiting, step to the side to allow those who wish to get off to exit. If the

## Elevators, Escalators, Doors . . .

By Christine Chen

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elevator is not crowded, when the doors open allow those who are older to exit first. Just like when you get on, men and boys allow women and girls to exit first.

**ESCALATORS:** Think of an escalator as a road—slow to the right and fast to the left. If you are riding with a friend, please don't stand side by side. Stand one in front of the other to allow those who are in a hurry to pass on the left. This rule applies to the people-movers you might see at the airport—stand on the right to allow those in a hurry to pass on the left.

**DOORS:** Please hold doors for those right behind you. Never let it close in another person's face. It only takes a second to glance over your shoulder to check if someone is right behind you. Of course, use common sense. If someone is quite a distance away, there is no need to hold the door. Men and

boys always hold the door for women and girls. Young people should also hold the door for anyone who is older. This kindness shows respect. Also, always hold the door for anyone who is carrying a heavy load, for mothers with strollers, or those in wheel chairs.

**REVOLVING DOORS:** If it is automatic and revolving on its own, the same rule applies here as with doors. Men and boys allow women and girls to go first and young people allow older people to go first. If the door is not automatic, men go first in order to get the door moving for women and children.

The last things to remember, and maybe the most important of all, are the magic words. Please remember to say "Thank you," "You're welcome," or "Excuse me" often. And, don't forget to smile! These are easy things all of us can do to make life in public places more enjoyable. ☺