

Setting the Table

If your memories of setting the table as a child are a bit hazy or if you're teaching someone the basics, here's a quick refresher. Follow the photo and the list of steps below for proper placement of each table item.

For each person's setting, place:

- ➔ A plate on the table in front of each chair.
- ➔ A fork to the left of the plate.
- ➔ A knife to the right of the plate (with the blade towards the plate).
- ➔ A spoon to the right of the knife.
- ➔ A glass just above the knife.
- ➔ A napkin - tucked under the fork, placed to the left of the fork or on top the plate.



Whether you're serving a weekday meal or holiday dinner, create a welcoming table with colorful place mats (the kids can color paper ones while you get dinner ready). A bowl of fruit or a candle makes an easy centerpiece for an extra special mealtime!

Nifty Napkin Ideas There are plenty of ways to make your table special. Let the kids help and let their creativity shine; it can also keep them busy while you finish making dinner. Here are a few ideas to get started:

Folding fun ways makes paper or cloth napkins extra special.

- A simple half-fold (see above), or corner-to-corner triangle fold is easy.
- Napkins can be rolled up to make a tube, or roll them around silverware.
- Place rolled napkins open end down, or apply a sticker to the loose end of the roll, or tie with ribbon, string or string of beads.

Decorate paper napkins with stickers or use crayons or ballpoint pens. Markers will absorb too much into the paper napkins and can get messy.

Blue jeans napkins are best! Why? Because "blue napkins" wash easily, don't need ironing and last forever. Cut old blue jeans into 15- or 18-inch squares (it's OK to leave in a seam or pocket). Wash them so the edges fray, then trim off extra

strings. The kids can even decorate them with permanent markers or fabric paint—how special!

Other options for napkins might be lurking in your house, at garage sales or thrift shops.

- Bandanas
- Decorative kitchen towels
- Washcloths

