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## Celebrity Etiquette Expert Gives Us Top Tips On How To Tell Guests

### You Don't Want Kids At Your Wedding

Posted on June 10th, by weddingmom in Blog, Wedding Mom Basics.





Read what @askaprilcom has to say about inviting, not inviting, and inviting some children to the wedding: <http://t.co/PqjmcOPoh4> #weddings



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Guest post from **April Masini of AskApril.com**

When **guests ask** you if they can bring their children, who weren't named on the invitation, it's best if you have already discussed this scenario with your fiancé and whoever else you're planning your wedding with, and have come up with a policy on children ahead of time! If you haven't, tell the person asking that you're going to discuss it with your fiancé and get back to them within the week with an answer. Here's what you should think about:

Consider the **tone of your wedding**. If you're having a midnight, candlelight service, children who are exhausted, cranky and disruptive won't enjoy themselves and will disrupt the sacred mood you're going for. In this case, simply say you've decided to keep the guest list adults only, and offer a few babysitting service phone numbers.

**Consider the domino effect**. If word gets out that you allow Sue's kids to come, you may get calls from Jackie, Ellen and Tiffany, telling you how great it is you're including kids, and please count theirs in, too! Now, you've got a wedding that resembles a Gymboree class not a black tie event. If you say yes to one family, there may be a residual wave of calls about kids coming.

Consider the **cost of adding kids**. You'll need more tables and chairs and more meals. If cost is the only thing keeping you from inviting the kids, consider having less pricey family service at the table instead of plated meals, or a kid's food buffet table.

Consider that there are some kids you want invited, and some you don't. You may want a no kids wedding – except for your nieces and nephews. Explain that the only children invited are family members, otherwise, it's adults only. Practice saying it.

No matter how careful you are with guest lists and kid policy, there are sometimes guests who simply show up with their kids without telling you in advance, and think it's okay. Instead of ruining your mood, find your sense of humor, and make sure your wedding planner or your maid of honor has an extra table and chairs ready to set up with place settings, just in case the unexpected happens and uninvited kids show up.

You may be accosted by parents who feel their children's lack of invitation to your wedding is a political issue. Don't engage. Appreciate their points of view and explain that this is the wedding you've dreamed of. If they don't back down, politely say that you understand their feelings, and if they can't attend as a result of the no kids policy, you appreciate their reasons. Don't dwell on this. Keep it moving!


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