



How to Identify and Develop Leadership Skills in Youth

Developing leadership skills in young children at an early age can help them to thrive across their life-span. With parental guidance and school support, students can begin identifying the leadership skills they possess. Parents can further leadership development by cultivating opportunities that give students a chance to actively engage, practice, and improve their skills with others.

While leadership skills vary, young students who possess leadership qualities exhibit creativity, intelligence, and wisdom with ease. Young leaders quickly show the ability to create new ideas and the aptitude of being problem solvers. Youth with leadership skills often consult with others, get feedback, and refine ideas. Leaders develop confidence without arrogance, act responsibly, and are trusted by their peers.

Leaders naturally influence their values upon their peers, by showing integrity and discipline. Thus, making their positive values more socially acceptable and commonly acted upon. They can produce quality solutions that quickly help to solve expected and unexpected problems. Developing leaders often inspire others by helping them to see the value in their own solutions.

Schools can provide a curriculum that fosters intellectual growth specifically for children. Educators can teach children what it means to possess leadership qualities. This can help them begin to see these traits within themselves, their peers, and other adults. Helping them to internalize what it means to act as a leader.

Parents play a major role in developing young students into strong leaders. Parents may use books, television shows, and movies to teach children about empathy, friendship, motivation, and other leadership qualities. Parents will quickly find that fictional and nonfictional characters can provide children with great examples of effective and ineffective leadership.

It's always a challenge to figure out the best way to encourage and nurture leadership skills in your child at an early age. It's important to emphasize there are differences between being a leader and being bossy or aggressive. The leaders of the future must be ready for an ever-changing world, showing their ready to tackle both expected and unexpected events on a daily basis.

Resources:

1. [Pfeiffer, S.I., & Wechsler, S.M. \(2013\). Youth leadership: a proposal for identifying and developing creativity and giftedness. Estudos De Psicologia \(Campinas\), 30, 219-229.](#)
2. [Oak Crest Academy. \(24 Jan. 2019\). Does Your Gifted Kid Have Leadership Characteristics?](#)
3. [Duke University. \(2006, May 29\). Creating Opportunities to Develop Leadership Ability. Gifted Today.](#)