

## Leadership

“People are born leaders.” You might have heard that, but that is not true. Someone can not just sign up to be a leader; they become one through life experiences. A leader must be respectful, wise, trustful, and most importantly fair, but these qualities might change depending on the situation. The leader’s followers must respect the leader’s decisions, but for that to happen the leader must also respect his followers.

What leadership means to me is someone who serves. For a leader to lead his team the leader has to serve his people. Also the leader has to put the people he leads before himself. A leader also has to teach by example and the best way for a leader’s followers to be taught something is through an example. This will teach both the leader and his followers “treat people the way you want to be treated!” A leader has to communicate effectively. If someone wants to be a leader that person has to communicate effectively and clearly. A proper leader communicates with his followers, clearly, about goals or plans and when stating goals or plans you must collaborate. For any task that needs to get accomplished a group of people need to work together as a team. Each person should get an equal task depending on what they are good at doing, and that the task should be done as smoothly as possible. To be a leader the leader has to work well with others and negotiate. They must also learn to accept when they are wrong. If a leader can not or does not do these things, that person is not a proper leader and does not have the proper leadership qualities. Every leader should be able to do these things and if not that leader is not setting a good trail for others to follow.

The qualities that are valued in a good leader are respect, loyalty and honesty. A leader can not judge one of her followers for being a little different but also the follower should not judge their leader unless she is doing something bad. A leader needs to be loyal and trustful because if a leader makes a decision it should be the best decision. The leader should never tell a lie to her followers because the followers will lose trust in their leader.

When I was three, I went to Oxford Learning Centre that had a nursery school program. Oxford Learning Centre taught children like me how to be leaders. They taught us to become leaders by having three year olds, four year olds, and five year olds in the same class. The older kids would help the younger kids which would help the older kids become leaders. Then when I became older I would help the younger kids. I have carried on this leadership quality throughout my life. Even when I was in grade two, when I was done my work I would go around and help my classmates with their work. I feel that, that was my first step to becoming a leader!

I do think leadership styles change depending on the situation. I think that because there is a time to be happy and have fun but there is also a time to be stern and take charge. An example would be when the leader's followers are having a disagreement. The leader would have to try to get them to compromise. The leader's style would change to stern and fair instead of happy and fun. This disagreement has to be taken charge of by a leader and the leader's style has to change or the disagreement will not be solved.

Leadership requires commitment. A leader's followers all have different opinions about everything and the leader's job is to use everyone's ideas and make it into one big idea! To be a leader you must believe in yourself and your abilities. Leaders must be confident in themselves and their followers. All people need a role model and through the guidance and examples of your role model you can become a role model too. If you want to become a great leader you have to start encouraging and educating yourself through life experiences. Good leaders develop through a process of education, training, and experience.

Just last year I used to go to the JK room and help the teacher with her students. I used to do lots of things like tie the children's shoes, button up their jackets and help them open their pudding cups. When the children were doing their school work I would always help them. Some of the kids were a little shy so I would try and talk to them and make them more outgoing. One girl was extremely shy and I kept talking to her and made her laugh, now she has a whole bunch of friends and just loves to talk. I feel the reason why I like to help people is because when I was younger in preschool we were taught to help people younger and older than us. Everyone becomes a leader from life experiences and I have so many. Every year, month, day of my life I have become a better leader, one step at a time.

People do not become leaders overnight and are definitely not born leaders. Anyone can be a leader; you just have to learn from mistakes and errors. You have to be involved and listen to your "teacher." Your teacher does not necessarily mean your school teacher. It could even be your parents or your soccer coach. By learning from your mistakes and listening to your surroundings you can be as good a leader as you want!

By: Julia Cerminara