Bloomster
Building Skills for Life

Leadership

Scenarios for Discussion and Reflection



Leadership
Discussion

We typically serve as dedicated and hopeful followers who look up to those who guide us, before we develop our own leadership skills.

Children develop a consciousness about their identity as they mature. Their self-reflections are often built around their experiences and in time, they look toward role models at home, school, in media, and elsewhere.

Who are some leaders you admire? Who were some of your favorite childhood role models? Why were they inspirational to you? At what points in your childhood did you develop an awareness about the qualities that make a leader especially effective? Which resources did you turn to in order to expand your understanding?

It is important to cultivate a child's understanding of what it means to be a leader. You may believe your child is a "natural leader" or you may feel they bear "untapped potential." Perhaps you see your child has the skills and qualities of a strong leader, but you may also recognize your child does not yet recognize this within themselves.

Move to the section on the right side of the page to ask a few important questions.

We've created five real-world scenarios for collaborative discussion to delve deeper into your child's leadership potential.

Please allow your child to lead the responses to each scenario and provide time for reflection. Please use open-ended questions and prompts to deepen the conversation and encourage critical thinking. This exercise will help you and your child explore the boundless possibilities of leadership together!



A Moment to Reflect

You likely have many questions about your child's development in these areas as their parent, guardian, or mentor. You may wonder:

- Is my child expressing leadership appropriately for their age?
- What opportunities exist for my child to develop their leadership potential?
- What roles might open up in my child's future if they develop their leadership skills now?

These questions are important, and finding answers involves considering various factors. Fortunately, tools are available to help you navigate this journey of exploration and discovery with your child.

Scenarios for Reflection

Scenario #1

Imagine you're with friends at a school fair where you can learn about extracurricular activities, clubs, sports, and volunteer opportunities. There are so many choices. There are multiple clubs that interest you. You consider a club you'd like to become part of and possibly lead. Which extracurricular activities, clubs, sports, or volunteer activities interest you most? How could you contribute?

Why This Scenario?

It is important to introduce all children to the idea of leadership. Children often do not recognize the pathways to leadership. The hardest part is often just getting started. This scenario will help the two of you decide where there are opportunities to demonstrate and grow their leadership skills.

Scenario #2

Today's Social Studies lesson is about current events. However, instead of global events, your teacher leads everyone through a conversation about topics that are important to the student body at your school. You come up with an idea to improve an aspect of school life for you and your peers. What experiences or aspects of school would you like to improve? What topics, ideas, and events matter to you and your peers? Where do you think you can contribute as a leader?

Why This Scenario?

Adolescents can find it challenging to identify precisely *where* they can serve as contributors. Helping them determine the *right* group or situation to lead can be leveraged by determining their passions. A leader should be passionate about the initiative for which they are responsible. We want to put forth the effort when we feel passionate about something.

Scenario #3

Your coach tells the team they need to select team captains. Everyone is very excited about the potential to become a leader. The coach asks you to envision yourself as a leader. What do you imagine? What responsibilities would come with being a team captain? What might change for you? What might stay the same?

Why This Scenario?

It's important for children to imagine themselves in a leadership role. It is integral they imagine what the task might require even if they don't have *every* detail about the requirements of this position. This can help them anticipate the responsibilities and have less stress about transitioning from being a follower to a leader.

Scenario #4

Imagine yourself as the leader of a group project. Your group has been working on the project for a couple of weeks and there have been both high and low points. The group makes a lot of progress and everyone works collaboratively and independently with success. However, one team member refuses to contribute. This classmate's lack of effort has been consistent. You know you're the leader, so you need to take charge. Please explain how you might handle this scenario.

Why This Scenario?

One part of emotional maturity and growth is the ability to empathize, use conflict resolution skills, and understand when to ask for support. It is also important to determine the strength of their independent decision-making skills. Do they resign in the face of conflict? Can they use appropriate and meaningful strategies to achieve resolution?

Scenario #5

You are a successful leader in two clubs. You feel so lucky to be trusted with responsibilities, but you notice you begin to feel relatively stressed with also completing your school work and attending your extracurricular activities. You stay up too late and struggle to wake up in the morning. What should you do next?

Why This Scenario?

It's true a child may be inclined to take on additional responsibility and become very ambitious. However, it is always important to prioritize health and well-being. Please listen to how your child responds. Is their first thought to quit or to use strategies to decompress? This will give you important insight about how they'd care for themself as a leader.

Take Your Child's Leadership Skills to the Next Level

Bloomster Course:

Building Leadership Skills

Now that you and your child have spoken, what do you think? Are you ready for them to learn more? We are, too. Learners will follow a young woman named Allison as she prepares to lead her peers through an initiative to clean up her messy middle school in our course, "**Building Leadership Skills**." She'll practice her leadership skills in a number of different scenarios with role models and mentors, as well as cooperative and uncooperative followers. Please join Allison and friends in this adventure!

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