

Building Leaders



Introduction

The following information will help you to teach leadership skills to children and youth you are working with. It contains a number of worksheets designed to get kids thinking about what a leader is, what characteristics and skills are needed, which ones they already have and which ones they want to learn.

Some of these materials are included from the Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada Torch Club Leader's Guide. The resources are designed for ages 10 to 13, so depending on the group you are working with, you may have to modify or simplify some of the language and activities. However, children of all ages can benefit from learning leadership skills.

The core messages in this module are:

- Everyone has leadership abilities
- Different people may have different abilities
- Improving leadership skills requires practice
- There are people who can help you learn

Using the Materials

We suggest the information be presented in the following order:

- Lead the Way: Becoming a Positive Leader
- My Leadership Personality Traits
- My Leadership Skills
- Building on My Strengths
- Building New Skills

Lead the Way: Becoming a Positive Leader

This worksheet allows kids to begin thinking about leadership

- What is a leader?
- What kind of things do they do?
- Can I be a leader?
- Why should I be a leader?
- How can I be a leader?
- What do I need to know and do?



Instructions:

Use the worksheet to do a brief overview on leadership. The key message is everyone can learn leadership skills and be a positive leader and role model among their peers.

On the worksheet there is some room for the kids to come up with some of their own ideas on what skills they have and what they would like to develop.

You may allow them to work in pairs or groups of three or four to allow for some discussion about leadership to take place. You can also ask someone from the group to report back on what they came up with.

Depending on the size of your group, allow approximately 40 minutes for this exercise; 10 minutes for overview; 20 minutes for discussion, and; 20 minutes for reporting back.

My Leadership Personality Characteristics

This worksheet allows kids to gain some self-awareness of some of the characteristics they already have. This exercise can assist in building kid's self-esteem as they see how great they are!

Instructions:

This may be an activity for kids to do individually. You could then give them the opportunity to share with the group some of the characteristics they identify with.

Other ideas:

- Create a Leadership Personality Characteristics chart or in shape of a person
 - have each child or youth write his/her name on a sticky note with one characteristic that they have
 - have child put it up on chart or shape and tell the group what the characteristic is
- pair up participants have each child list a characteristic that their partner has
 - again write on sticky note with child's name and put on chart
 - Each of the kids can read out what they wrote about their partner. This can be a great way to get positive feedback and reinforcement from peers. It also gives each child a chance to get up and participate.

My Leadership Skills

This worksheet encourages kids to think about leadership as skill building. It helps them to think about leadership in terms of what skills are task-oriented



and what are people-oriented. Again, this activity calls for self-reflection and gaining self-awareness. It will also help them to think about what they still need to learn to be a strong leader.

Instructions:

This is also an activity for kids to do individually. After they have worked on the sheet individually, may want to have them pair up with a partner or a slightly larger group to share some of their ideas. You can have them all come back together as a group and each can share one positive skill their partner possesses.

You could also create a Leadership Skills chart and have each child or youth write the skill on a sticky note with their partners name on it and put it up on the chart. Each of the kids can read out what they wrote about their partner. This can be a great way to get positive feedback and reinforcement from peers. It also gives each child a chance to get up and participate.

Allow approximately 40 minutes if including reporting back to the group as part of the exercise.

Building on My Strengths

This sheet encourages kids to narrow down their focus to working on one skill they would like to strengthen. You may want to do a mock exercise as an example.

Instructions:

The same process as described above with the My Leadership Skills worksheet can be used.

Participants may need a little more guidance and direction with this worksheet, so they may need to work with partners or in small groups. Depending on the size of your group, you may also want to do some brainstorming as a collective, to get the ideas flowing. You may even provide some suggestions of people who may be able to help with building the skill ie: teacher, coach, parents, etc.

Building New Skills

This worksheet encourages participants to think about what skills they want to build and some ideas on how to go about it.

Instructions:

Use same process as Building on My Strengths.

