

*Parent Handout*

**Welcome to the Leader In Me**

The Leader in Me provides your school with the vision and language to lead the school in a way that addresses all areas of development. As each child discovers and develops his or her unique gifts and talents, they are given opportunities to lead. As leaders, they become active, engaged partners in their own education and their self-confidence, responsibility, and initiative grows. The children quickly understand the benefits of different gifts and talents; they learn to listen to new ideas, work together to achieve results, and motivate one another to be the best.

**Parent as Teachers**

You are your child’s first and best teacher. you can help your son or daughter discover the leader within and prepare for a great life of contribution to the world. The absolute best way to reinforce the importance of the 7 Habits and to make sure your child lives them is to model them in your own behavior.

**Keep It Simple**

Look for ways to integrate the 7 Habits into what you are already doing. Think of it not as one more thing, but as a better way of doing what you are already doing. Go at a pace that works for your family. you can plunge in all at once or work at it slowly. either way, you will see improvements as you reap the benefits of living timeless and universal principles as a family. remember, your child possesses unique gifts and talents. Think about what these are and what you can do to nurture and develop them.

**Habit 1:** Be Proactive

I am a responsible person. I take initiative. I choose my actions, attitudes, and moods. I do not blame others for my wrong actions. I do the right thing without being asked, even when no one is looking.

*Parent-Child Activities*

* Role play: Tell your child that you broke his or her favorite toy by accident. Tell him or her that you don’t think it’s a very big deal because he or she has many toys. (In this role play, you should be your child’s sibling.)
* Role play: Tell your child that you are “sooooo bored” and there is nothing fun to do. Complain that no one wants to play and that he or she (as the parent) needs to amuse you. (In this role play, you should play the part of your child and your child should play the part of you).

**Habit 2:** Begin With the End in Mind

I plan ahead and set goals. I do things that have meaning and make a difference. I am an important part of my classroom and contribute to my school’s mission and vision. I look for ways to be a good citizen.

*Parent-Child Activities*

* Habit 2 provides a good base for activities around goal setting. As a family (or with an individual child), choose an area that needs improvement. The area of improvement, or the broad goal, becomes your end in mind. Then think of specific steps that will lead to achieving this goal. For example, if the goal is to improve as a reader, specific steps may include reading a certain amount of time every day or working several times a week to improve oral fluency.
* Ask your child if there is something special he or she would like to buy, then help your child plan how much money he or she will need to save and how long it will take. Discuss ideas for earning extra money like doing additional chores and helping around the house.

**Habit 3:** Put First Things First

I spend my time on things that are most important. This means I say no to things I know I should not do. I set priorities, make a schedule, and follow my plan. I am disciplined and organized.

*Parent-Child Activities*

* Create a list of things your child needs to accomplish throughout a week. With your child, rank the tasks in importance. Then rewrite the list in order of importance. Use a planner or calendar to schedule time so that the important things are done first.
* Role-play with your child about the consequences of forgetting to study for a math test. How will your child feel? What are the consequences? Then role-play how it will feel to be well prepared and get a great match score!

**Habit 4:** Think Win-Win

I balance courage for getting what I want with consideration for what others want. When conflicts arise, I look for a win-win solution.

*Parent-Child Activities*

* Encourage win-win solutions to sibling disputes. Don’t always be the mediator; let them work out a solution and be sure to be lavish children with praise when they do.
* Think of an ongoing conflict you tend to have with your child (homework, cleaning his or her room, feeding the dog, putting gas in the car) and then discuss a win-win solution to the conflict. Write down the solution and then remind each other of it the next time the situation arises.
* Remember not to compare your children in front of each other. Try not to say to Marcelo that “Juan always remembers to clear the table.” That’s win-lose thinking. Instead, just concentrate on praising Juan for a job well done. Marcelo will get the message.

**Habit 5:** Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood

I listen to other people’s ideas and feelings. I try to see things from their viewpoint (paradigm). I listen to others without interrupting. I listen with my ears, my eyes, and my heart. I am confident in voicing my ideas.

*Parent-Child Activities*

* To better understand how listening can help or hurt a relationship, try “pretend listening” with your child for a few minutes. Your child will be frustrated. Explain what you were doing and discuss how your child felt. Now have your child ignore you when you are talking. Discuss how it makes you feel when you are ignored. Finish the discussion by thinking of ways to let the other person know when you feel you are not being truly listened to. Remind your child that this is also an example of Think Win-Win.
* Body language can be even more important than words. Play a game with your kids where you each try to guess the other’s emotion (happy, sad, angry, frustrated, bored, etc.) without using any words, just body language.
* Demonstrate how saying the same phrase in a different tone of voice can give the phrase a completely different meaning. Try emphasizing different words in the phrase “I didn’t say you did it” and then have your child tell you how the meaning changed.

**Habit 6:** Synergize

I value other people’s strengths and learn from them. I get along well with others, even people who are different than me. I work well in groups. I seek out other people’s ideas because I know that by teaming with others, we can create better solutions than what any one of us could alone. I look for Third alternatives.

*Parent-Child Activities*

* Institute a “15-minute program” where everyone drops what they are doing and pitches in to work as a team to clean the kitchen, pull weeds in the garden, wash the dishes, sweep the front porch, etc. Cutting out a small block of time where everyone helps makes the work go quicker.

**Habit 7:** Sharpen the Saw

I eat right, exercise, and get enough sleep (body). I learn in lots of ways and lots of places, not just at school (brain). I spend time with family and friends (heart). I take time to find meaningful ways to help people (soul). I balance all four parts of myself.

*Parent-Child Activities*

* Discuss various ways to Sharpen the Saw in all areas. Ideas might include: body (playing outside, riding your bike), brain (balancing reading with TV watching or making smarter choices about what you watch), heart (making a list of what makes you happy and doing something on the list every day, spending time with special friends and family), and soul (attending religious services, starting a journal).
* Read inspiring books

**Will You Child be the Next Leader In Me Success Story?**

Drawing from the best practices and thought leadership of successful educators around the world, Franklin Covey’s *The Leader in Me* process will help schools and families develop students who are ready to succeed in the 21st century, with critical skills and characteristics such as:

* Trust and trustworthiness
* Effective interpersonal skills
* Strong work ethic
* Sense of teamwork
* Motivation and initiative
* Valuing diversity in a global market
* Problem-solving skills
* Goal setting

What’s more, schools will enjoy a culture in which discipline referrals decrease, test scores improve, and engaged staff members contribute the highest and best of their talents and efforts.

