Leadership starts early: the value of role models

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What is Leadership?

Good Leader:
- Encourages
- Supports
- Self-confidence
- Self-esteem
- Empathy
- Communicator
- Clear goals
- Sees possibilities
- Resourceful
- Values team
- Respectful
- Inspirational
- Confident
- Persistance

- Visionary
Leadership Starts Early

“It may be possible to teach old dogs new tricks, but there’s no question that the sooner you begin, the easier it is”
Leadership is a learned behaviour!

“It is developed through experience. The most effective way of learning leadership is through doing.”

S. Kuczumarski, *The Sacred Flight of the Teenager*

“If they want to lead, they must learn to serve”

J. Kelle, NY
Leadership Starts Early
Growing Leaders Early

Helps students by:
- Break out of the herd and influence others
- Capitalize on personal strengths
- Better life choices
- Raise empathy (decrease bullying)

Helps teachers/parents by:
- Students take initiative to improve school culture
- Gain attention of others; students listen more to peers (mutual respect)
- Reduce discipline problems
Youth are full of energy
they test boundaries but need a safety net
They need to practice
The need a non-judgmental role model
Who are the influencers?

- Grade 7’s – 584 students (males and females)
- Career choice survey done in schools

Influencers:

- Family
- Role Models
- Teachers
- Friends
- Me

Girls more influenced by parents and teachers
Boys by non-STEM role models
As parents/teachers we can:

- Be a catalyst
- Provide opportunities for leadership
- Avoid comparisons
- Look out for and nurture leadership skills
- Reward good decisions
As professionals in STEM we can..

**Be Inspiring**

- Share our experiences (+ve and –ve)
- Show life balance is possible
- Recognize leadership efforts
Connecting youth with inspiring role models

- 5 day Science summer Camps
- 1 day Science Retreats
- 1 hour Panel Sessions
- Webinars (online)
To Conclude...

- We need more female leaders in STEM
- We can act as catalysts

We are all role models