

Pondering Point

Many people know what it takes to be a leader in the workplace. Good leaders lead by inspiration and example, cultivating others to be strong, ethical contributors. Did you realize the same applies to being a leader in your *home* environment? Our families consist of children, grandparents, single parents, or perhaps simply the best friends a person has. What makes a family portrait is different for everyone. What remains universal is the need for a sense of leadership to support the growth and development of its members. And this leadership will probably be found in more than one person.

Leadership starts with positive role modeling. After all, the only thing that we can control in the house is our actions and what we do. We teach others about empathy by being empathetic. When we are transparent with our emotions, we give permission for others to show their emotions and talk about them. When we take action and find solutions to our problems, we model how others can take ownership of their own.

In order to be a positive leader with our loved ones, much like in the workplace, we should encourage all members to develop into emotionally healthy, responsible citizens who can be contributing members of the community.

How are you a LEADER with your family?

Show them what's important.



Imagine... making a positive difference in the lives of those you care most about.

— From Pondering to Practice —

Self Reflection Activity

On a piece of paper, make a chart listing the members of your household growing up.

- *What were the leadership characteristics of each?*
 - * Some may be positive and some characteristics may be less than positive.
- *What kind of leadership skills were you practicing then?*
- *What did you learn from others?*

Think about the leadership skills each person brought to table and how that affected you. Celebrate these people and yourself for having learned this.

Activity

For this activity, sit down with the members of your present family (at least the adults) that you feel safe enough discussing leadership with.

- Chart out the members that make up your family.
- Work together to find out what leadership characteristics are prevalent in your home.
- Talk about what each member sees in the others that inspire and set an example.
- What leadership characteristics do you display through your actions?

"Parents provide the earliest influence on children. By modeling leadership in their own lives, parents profoundly affect the kind of leaders their children become."

- Michael McKinney, www.LeadershipNow.com