

Lessons in Leadership: Lead, Learn, and Pass It On Part 3 – Core Values

[Music]

Leader 1: The core value for me is understanding that everyone brings a gift to the table. No matter what station in life they are at, they have something to offer. And that is what I like about Head Start. That is my personal, but it matches my Head Start values – values as well. It's because every day you find out something new about someone, a talent that they have or just acts of kindness that they give. That makes your day.

Leader 2: My thoughts on leadership would be you want to say yes to opportunities that come along. You are concerned with your best practices, but you are looking for the next practices. Because if you just can say we are doing best practices, if you do that for a couple of years, you're going to become outdated. So you always have to be looking at the next practice, the next step that is going to take you somewhere different or be something different. So nothing is very static in early childhood. You always have to be looking at different – how you can change things up so that it works better. If you are doing the exact same thing that you did three years ago, you're probably outdated.

Leader 3: A lot of the leadership traits and – and what I need to have in my position is time management, learning what is priority and what is the most important task that I need to complete today and – and get that done. Just because – I have field staff that I'm so accessible to, which is great. I'm happy to have that. At the same time, that is constant interruption. So when I have, you know, reports that I need to get done, if I have data that I need to collect for school readiness and our assessments, that really cuts into my time. So that's the biggest thing, is time management and prioritizing what is important, and then go from there.

Leader 1: A new leader has to have the patience for the job and the passion for it. And the patience comes in when you are dealing with people, because everybody is not moving at the same pace that you are, so you have to slow up, go back, and figure out, did I lose somebody when I was moving or in translation or communication? The passion is seeing families and staff grow and build their skills, whether they go back to school and get a degree, whether they go to training, come back and say, "We really need to try this," or watching a family say, "Guess what? I found a job today." Those little things like that is what keeps leaders going. That keeps you grounded. That keeps you understanding why we're here and that you want to be a leader in this agency. It's those little things.

Leader 4: You have to be a good role model. You have to be able to do what you expect your staff to do, regardless of who they are, whether it's the teacher, the assistant.

Leader 3: I try to think about how I was led in the past, how my prior supervisors – how they were with me. That's who I strive to be. I had a very positive experience with past supervisors that I could take things that they did and implement them in my own classroom with my own staff.