

Lessons in Leadership: Lead, Learn, and Pass It On
Part 7 – School Readiness

[Music]

Leader 1: When you talk about school readiness goals, that is an ongoing process. That is a process that you have to clearly communicate and engage parents and specific leaders in the agency as well as the community to help you to develop those. Because a lot of times, people think it's just about learning your numbers and ABCs, but you have to engage the family and the community as well as part of it.

Leader 2: When I think of school readiness, I think of relationships. And that could be relationships with our West Virginia Birth to Three partners, our relationships with the school system, of course with the families. Those bonds that are made, whether it's your first day of preschool that you make with the parent or it's that first day when you have a prenatal mom and you are supporting her, that's when – that's where that school readiness starts, is building those bonds, giving parents the resources they need at the time they need it the most, and supporting the fathers and the mothers.

Leader 3: You need to have them start recognizing their children's education goals from the start. We have them for a short – very short period of time. But in that time, you have to start looking at how do you engage parents so that they take ownership of their child's school readiness goals, because we're only there for that first five years. They need to carry it on further.

Leader 1: It's been my experience that when you find yourself in a leadership position, somebody noticed it long before you did. So – and then you are like, can I live up to the expectations? And as time goes on, you find out, yes, you can.

Leader 4: A lot – what I've learned about myself is that I have to be confident. And when I'm confident, that allows my staff to have that confidence in me that I'm able to lead them and to lead this program to bigger and better things.

Leader 1: I would have you remember at all times, do not take yourself too serious. Be sure to have some laughter and provide laughter for someone else. That will help you through the rough times.

Leader 5: There is times when I know I've been like, ugh! But it's all that reflective pieces, just to come back and say, why am I here in the first place? It's to work and do my best for the good of the children and the family. And if I can kind of keep that going, then I feel like it just – it all works out.

Angie Godfrey: I would like to close by thanking all of you for joining us today. And thank each of you for the work you do each day with your staff and the children and families in your community. Leadership is not just the work you do each day. It is the path you forge for the future. Thank you.