

Making a Difference - One Leader at Time



Learning Objectives

- ▶ Defining your Leadership
- ▶ Understanding Leadership the why and how?
- ▶ When do Parents become leaders?
- ▶ How do we get there?
- ▶ Next steps



What is Leadership?

Leadership is an attitude and a behavior, not a position.



When do Parents become Leaders

- ▶ Acceptance
- ▶ Encouraged
- ▶ Supported



Shared Leadership

Multiple perspectives & diverse strengths and talents are combined to achieve goals

Families know how systems really work "on the ground"



Leadership Qualities

- Active listening
- Empathy
- Sincere caring
- Recognition & appreciation of other leaders' knowledge & skills
- Focus on strengthening knowledge & skills



Types of Exemplary Leadership


(1) **Challenging the process**
In challenging the process, a leader identifies what isn't working and raises concerns about the process and outcomes.

(2) **Inspiring a shared vision**
In inspiring a shared vision, a leader motivates and supports others to come to consensus about what is and isn't working in a particular situation or system and what the end goal(s)

(3) **Enabling others to act**
In enabling others to act, a leader provides the supports and encouragement to others to act on behalf of the shared vision to change the process and outcomes.


(4) **Modeling the Way**
In modeling the way, a leader leads by example, demonstrating effective leadership by their actions.

(5) **Encouraging the heart**
In encouraging the heart, a leader provides emotional support to others to support their leadership and keep them strong and committed even in the face of disappointment.




Valuable Roles of Parent Leaders

- ▶ Advocate on an individual basis
- ▶ Act as a catalyst for new ideas
- ▶ Think about how systems fit together
- ▶ Help others understand how change happens
- ▶ Coordinate activities aimed at making change



Key Roles for Parents Leaders

- ▶ Role model for other parents
- ▶ Per Diem trainer
- ▶ Contributor to material development
- ▶ Participant at conferences, meeting
- ▶ Paid consultant
- ▶ Participant in evaluation & quality improvement activities
- ▶ Participant in needs/ strengths assessment processes
- ▶ Advocate for individuals, families, programs, system change
- ▶ Participant in focus groups
- ▶ Advisory Board or Board member
- ▶ Witness at public hearings



Why do Parents Get Involved?



Parent Leadership



LEADERSHIP

Action
Changes
Things



Comprehensive Training


- ▶ SPAN Parent Resource Training - SRP
- ▶ Special Education Volunteer Advocates - SEVA




Comprehensive Training

Engagement Phase	Involvement Phase	Empowerment Phase
One-on-one trust building	Training	Assist Families
Invitation	Education	Create Change
	Recognition	Mentoring





Alone we can do so little;
together we can do so much.
-Helen Keller



Join Us!

Please remember to fill out your evaluation



Thank You!