Top 10 Tips – How to Improve your Leadership Skills

Supplied by: The Development Company Limited

It is a myth that leaders are born and not made. Leadership is a learned skill. Use these tips to enable you to develop your leadership style.

1. Learn from other leaders
Read biographies of past and present leaders to find out their leadership story. Look for trends.

2. Observe other leader
Watch 'You Tube' clips of leaders speaking at conferences and shadow leaders you admire in your organisation. Make notes on what they say and what they do.

3. Learn how to see into the future
Great leaders are people who visualise – 'paint a picture' of what the future will look like. Visualisation is a skill – John Lennon (aged 15) inspired Paul McCartney and George Harrison with the saying 'We {The Beatles} will be the Toppermost of the Poppermost'. Great leaders tell people where they are heading.

4. Learn how to tell stories that inspire
You will need to be a great story teller. It is a skill, so learn how to captivate people. Watch great orators (such as JFK, Churchill or Martin Luther King) on You Tube and practise your own unique style.

5. Write down your vision for yourself as a leader
Imagine it is ten years from now and you are leaving the company. What will people be saying about you, your strapline, how you brought out the best in others, what you achieved and the legacy you have left?

6. Write a plan to enable you to achieve your goals
Great leaders are superb at goal setting. Learn how to be goals focused, write goals drawn from your vision and stick to your plan.

7. Keep learning
"Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other." John F Kennedy.
He's right. Research indicates that great leaders are always learning.

8. Stretch yourself
Great leaders challenge their own boundaries. This might mean doing something in a different way or doing something new. Stretching yourself will enable you to be empathic when you are encouraging others to take on a stretch challenge, and it helps with number 7 (keep learning).

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9. Get feedback from others

"Feedback is the breakfast of champions." Kenneth Blanchard.
You will need to get feedback from people to find out what it is like being led by you.
ASK for feedback – LISTEN to it – THANK them for it - DECIDE what to do with it – CLOSE THE LOOP by stating your what you have decided to do with the feedback.

10. Tell your own leadership story

Pass on your learning to others by speaking at conferences. What is your unique story? Tell your journey so others can benefits from the peaks, challenges you overcame, lows and tips that are unique to you.

Bio: The Development Company deliver seminars, one to one coaching and training courses on Leadership.

We are licenced to deliver 360 degree feedback on Kouzes-Posner Leadership Practices Inventory – The Leadership Challenge. Contact us if you'd like us to help your people become exceptional leaders.

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