

Child Care

Business Exchange

TENNESSEE CHILD CARE FACILITIES CORPORATION
Helpful Business and Management Tips

E - NEWS

Leadership is...EMPOWERMENT

As a Leader...your principal job is to create an operating environment where others can do great things.

Richard Teerlink

Leadership from the Middle

Debra Sullivan, Exchange Director of Community Development, and author of *Learning to Lead: Effective Leadership Skills for Teachers of Young Children*, provides some very interesting thoughts about leadership. She observes that "The strength and enthusiasm of leadership at the middle and lower levels of any group or program create the strength and enthusiasm at the top." She explains that "In order for a program to do best for children and families, leadership must be present at all levels within every early childhood setting, whether that be a family child care home, a center, a school-age child care program, or a preschool. Leader-like actions and qualities must come from every teacher, assistant, aide, support staff member, and adult. Leadership does not only occur at top levels, and it is not always the sole property of the person in charge. In practice, it is spread throughout all levels, which is essential for a healthy system. Everyone throughout any program or organization must be ready to take leader-like action so each level can function effectively." Leadership builds on itself. Many of the best leaders in almost any field have come up through the ranks of leadership. Very few people develop leadership skills in a brief moment of activity. The leadership talents of some may be well hidden until later years, but with patience, practice, reflection, and the right circumstances, leadership talent will develop and emerge.

This article was provided by ExchangeEveryDay of Exchange Magazine

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August 20, 2008

Providing Quality Child Care Makes Good Business Sense

