



WANT YOUR DAUGHTER TO BE A LEADER?

Promoting leadership is above all about fostering self-confidence and providing positive environments in which to acquire experience. Here are some quick tips on raising girls to be leaders.

- Do your best to give girls supportive, inspiring, and influential role models. Parents, particularly mothers, are a primary influence on the lives of their daughters. Other family members and teachers are also important.
- Create a supportive environment in which girls feel free to express themselves and experiment with their leadership identities.
- Learn about activities at school, at after-school programs, at houses of worship, and with trusted community-based organizations. Encourage girls to participate in a variety of these activities so they can develop the leadership skills key to their future success.
- Enable girls to engage in collaborative projects and experiences with their peers by providing a range of opportunities.
- Spark discussions with girls about the accomplishments and lives of extraordinary people of historical and personal significance.
- Engage girls in conversations about family and friends who showed leadership at particularly crucial moments. Discuss the options they had and how making the right choice influenced others.
- Encourage girls to get involved in planning and overseeing family, school, and/or community events or to take responsibility for specific activities. Skills gained in these types of activities are transferable to other leadership opportunities at work or school.
- Give girls the opportunity to practice and develop specific skills, such as speaking in front of others; giving instructions; giving and receiving constructive feedback; being assertive; and thinking critically in difficult situations.
- Talk with girls about critical issues affecting them, their community, and communities near and far. Support girls as they develop their ideas and efforts to effect change with the issues they find relevant.
- Discuss with girls any fears they may have about trying out new or challenging opportunities or positions. Fear should not be a barrier to girls' getting ahead in life.
- Identify, with girls, the stereotypes and negative images of girls and women of different cultures and backgrounds that still persist in society. Empower girls to be the best that they can be in spite of these negative images and practices.
- Help girls see the leadership skills and qualities they already possess, and identify ones they can attain, if they desire.

Source: *Change It Up! What Girls Say About Redefining Leadership* (2008)