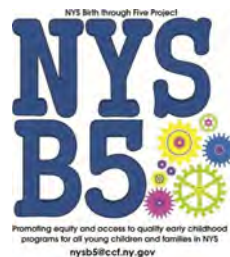




A SEVEN PART LEADERSHIP SERIES FOR PARENTS  
AND CAREGIVERS OF YOUNG CHILDREN

# Parent Leadership

## Session 1



This project is supported by the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five Initiative (PDGB5), Grant Number 90TP005903, from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Care. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official view of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.

# Session Goals

- Define parent leadership.
- Reflect on how leadership relates to your current and future roles
- Identify strengths and challenges related to parent leadership
- Identify key characteristics and practices connected to parent leadership to help build your toolkit to advance change in your family and community.

# **Let's talk about parent leadership.**

What is a parent leader? Why is it important to consider parent leadership?

## **Defining parent leadership.**

Parent leaders are caregivers who plays a major role in the life of a child who gains knowledge and skills to participate in meaningful roles and utilize their voice to help shape the direction of their families, programs and communities.

Source: National Parent Leadership Toolkit

## **Defining parent leadership.**

Parent leaders also work to build effective partnerships and share responsibility, expertise and leadership in decisions being made that affect children, families and communities as a whole

Source: National Parent Leadership Toolkit

## **Defining parent leadership.**

Parent leadership is important as it builds “the capacity for parents to interact, navigate and lead within civic society with purpose and positive gains for children.

Source: Zimmerman, E.” Parent Leadership”

## Let's talk.

What may be some benefits and challenges connected to parent leadership?

Source: Zimmerman, E." Parent Leadership"



# There are benefits and challenges.

<b>Benefits</b>	<b>Challenges</b>
Leading and acting on a purpose; a vision.	Reluctance and resistance
Engaged in discussions with multiple viewpoints	Time, the perception of being “overburden” or not feeling engaged; heard
Access to resources and opportunities to build on your skills and lead with your strengths	The viewpoint of parent leaders are not seen or respected as partners
Participate in decisions to build change in policy and culture impacting child well being	Administrative and organizational barriers

# What are some key skills in leadership?

Today, we will share 10 key practices we have adapted for today's session together that can be used both in home, schools and the greater community as parent leaders.

# Top 10 Leadership Skills

1. Having a vision and a goal. What is your why?
2. Leading by example.
3. Effective two-way communication.
4. Be participative and be willing to make 'executive decisions'.
5. Emotional intelligence

Source: Nadim Saad, "What does Parenting and Leadership Have in Common" (Adapted)

# Top 10 Leadership Skills

6. Motivating and inspire by being simply you. Speaking from your truth.
7. Adaptability
8. Understanding and acceptance of mistakes.
9. Trust
10. Determination and commitment

Source: Nadim Saad, "What does Parenting and Leadership Have in Common" (Adapted)

## **Let's reflect.**

Which one of the skills shared are a strength of yours? Which one of the skills shared is an area you would like to work on?

# Key Takeaways

- Parent leadership focuses on building your capacity to bring positive change to your child and the greater community.
- There are multiple benefits and challenges as parent leaders, but we all have one intention: children.
- Trust the process and embrace the mistakes, as you are growing as a parent leader.



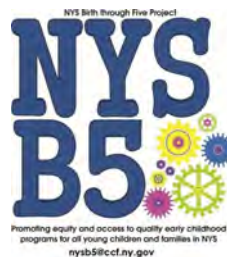
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# Thank you for joining us today!

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The leadership series has been developed in partnership with Choice for All. Thank you to our curriculum developers and facilitators, Jacob Dixon, Pamela Hollingsworth and Lynette Batts.

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