

5 Tips for Enhancing Leadership Skills

Leadership is required in every field. Leaders inspire and motivate their team to perform to the highest standard. It is a myth that all leaders are born with leadership qualities. Many leadership skills are taught and practiced until they are perfected. An ideal leader is someone who doesn't stand still, listens to the team and empowers all those around them. Here are 5 tips for enhancing leadership skills.

#1 – Engagement empowers employees

Leadership isn't about you – it's about those whom you lead. There is nothing more frustrating than disconnected leaders. Smart leaders spend their time starting or advancing conversations, not avoiding or ending them. The more you engage others, the better leader you will become. It's nearly impossible to create the type of confidence, trust, and loyalty a leader must possess without being fully engaged. In person, over the phone, via email, or even by sending a good old fashion thank you note creates engagement.

#2 – Know that leadership skills come from learning

Far too many business executives believe leadership skills stem from being promoted and achieving business results. Sure, great ideas can come to any of us, but being an authentic leader also means taking the time to learn. Read books on effective leadership, attend seminars and enrol the services of a skilled and qualified coach. The more knowledge you have under your belt, the more successful you can potentially be.

#3 – Be open to new ways of approaching issues

Skilled leaders acknowledge success but also recognise there are always ways to improve. Thoughtful leadership means you already have a talented work force in place, that's terrific, but be careful not set up a throne room in the process. Individual voices contribute to and enhance the business - so bring people together and collaborate.

#4 – Honesty really IS the best policy

Be authentic. Tell the truth with sincerity. Be open about mistakes. We are all human and make them every day. In the middle of a mistake we discover a new solution.

There are infinite opportunities to learn. If you demonstrate acknowledging mistakes and learning from them, then so will your team.

#5– Realise your impact on others

We can never fully know the reach of our words and actions. At times you may come across as negative, frustrated or critical. Realise that your disposition impacts on those around you. You are in a powerful position and your influence is incalculable.