



POWERFUL WORDS

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

DEAR DR. ROBYN

Young students: “Knowing the way, going the way and showing the way to others!”

Older students/teens/adults: “Inspiring people to come together & take action towards a common goal.”

Dear Dr. Robyn,

We’ve heard the expression that today’s kids are tomorrow’s leaders. When my kids were younger, we let them play...which helped them learn leadership roles. They are older now and I want to do more to help them learn how they can step up and be a resource to others. How can I help my kids to become leaders that make a positive difference in the future?

D. Morgan; Chicago, IL

Dear D. Morgan,

I love this! It’s important to think about ways to build leadership in our children so that they can make a positive difference in the future...as well as today!

Given that many are in need right now, this is the perfect time to think through these questions:

- (1) What/who do I care about?
- (2) What are their needs?
- (3) What are my strengths?
- (4) What do I really want (goal) for those in need/this cause?
- (5) How can I help & apply my strengths to their needs?
- (6) Who can help?
- (7) How can I invite others in & inspire them to care?
- (8) How can I lead others to work towards this common goal?

A child might decide that their cause is “homeless pets” and collect goods to drop off at local shelters. Another child

might have an environmental cause and want to organize a “clean-up crew” to collect trash in community parks. Some children may be thinking more globally and want to connect different cultures through linking penpals through approved schools. Of course, some may want to help those suffering now from COVID-19. The choices are endless- what does your child care about? Brainstorm some ways that your children can help and have them think through these questions. Even a small project can help them see that they can make a difference.

Outside of these thought-provoking questions, aspiring leaders can reflect on how they want to BE as a leader and how others might view them. They can think through; “What is it like to work with me?” “Do I listen more than I speak?” “How do I respond when others disagree?” and “How do I deal with failure?” These

are questions future leaders can grow from and see a chance to make improvements.

Finally, be sure to give your children opportunities to exercise their leadership skills by taking the lead on age-appropriate projects in your home. Practice leads to progress, confidence and competence! It can also lead to making wonderful contributions.

Here’s to your success!

