

## What is Leadership and Why is it Important?

Leadership is about using your knowledge, skills, personality, and experience to positively influence early childhood best practice.

Every educator has the capacity to lead, and by doing so to improve opportunities for children and their families. Educators can promote developmentally appropriate ways of working with children which in turn supports professional growth and development.

Early childhood educators can enact leadership by presenting the values and supporting the goals of the classroom.

Leadership may be taking overall responsibility for a whole setting or several settings, putting in place policies and procedures to enable the setting to achieve its aims, and providing a structure for the workforce to work with. This is how many people view leadership, but leadership is much more than this. It might be looking for ways to do your own job more effectively.



## Leadership in Early Childhood Education

### What are Quick Tips?: Concise guidance for Early Childhood Educators

Quick Tips provide early childhood educators, at all levels of practice, concise guidance on specific and relevant topics. Each Quick Tip is intentionally designed to inspire growth and learning, elicit reflection, and support best practices for all children and their families. Quick Tip content embraces inclusiveness across all topics and embeds inclusive practice throughout.



## Strategies for Leaders:

A leader in the early childhood classroom encourages others to reflect personally.

### Leaders:

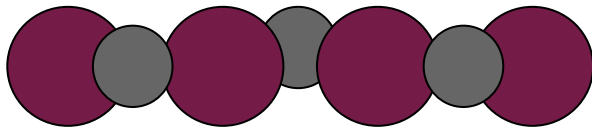
- Make children's learning, development and well being the primary focus.
- Address children's rights and honor diversity of all kinds in positive, constructive, and courageous ways.
- Build respectful, trusting, nurturing and equitable relationships.
- Build respectful and genuine relationships with families and communities.
- Collaboratively develop a culture of ethical inquiry.
- Collaboratively create a community of learners.

## Early Educator Support Office



## Reflective Questions

- When I began my journey as an early educator, what did I wish I had that I didn't?
- What are my strengths and areas of expertise as an early educator?
- What committees, meetings and groups can I can share ideas and strategies with?
- What are some professional organizations that I have been interested in learning more about?



## What are Ways I Can Be a Teacher Leader Today?

- Share ideas and strategies that you are using in the classroom (PLC meetings, staff meetings, etc.)
- Join an Early Childhood Professional Organization.
- Attend professional workshops, conferences and share information learned with colleagues
- Help plan family engagement workshops.
- Share your area of expertise by serving on teacher support/ teacher led events like Back to Basics that are offered by the Early Educator Support Office.
- Share ideas and connect with other educators on the Early Educator Support Facebook Page.
- Informally mentor an early educator that is new to the profession.

## NC Foundations for Early Learning and Development

### Guiding Principles

- Each child is unique. (GP #2)
- Children are active learners and they learn through play. (GP #8)
- All children can learn and make progress in the areas defined in Foundations. (GP #9)



### Resources:

- <http://earlyeducatorsupport.unc.edu>
- [https://files.nc.gov/dpi/north\\_carolina\\_professional\\_teaching\\_standards\\_2.pdf](https://files.nc.gov/dpi/north_carolina_professional_teaching_standards_2.pdf)
- <http://thespoke.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/leadership-look-like-early-childhood-settings>
- <https://blog.himama.com/leadership-in-early-childhood-education/>

## NC Professional Teaching Standards

**Standard I, Element A:** Leadership in the early childhood classroom can look like:

- Having a clear understanding of NC Foundations for Early Learning and Development
- Taking responsibility for the progress of children
- Creating a safe environment
- Planning and implementing intentional & developmentally appropriate activities

**Standard I, Element B:** Leadership in the school involves:

- Collaborating with colleagues & enhancing teaching practices
- Being involved in decision making processes within the school
- Taking leadership in improving the school

**Standard I, Element C:** Leadership in the profession includes:

- Being part of professional organizations
- Promoting professional development & improving the profession
- Participating in decision making processes about early childhood

**Standard I, Elements D & E:** Leaders are ethical and advocate for children by:

- Collaborating with families & providing resources to support children
- Being involved in IEP teams and advocating for change in early education policies