

At Lead2Play we believe everyone has the ability to lead, and to do it well. We also believe that the best leaders have certain qualities or traits that make them more successful at leading than others.

The most effective leaders display six traits: they are positive, service oriented, responsible, clear, assertive, and appreciative.

If you want to be an effective leader, you need to grow these six leadership traits in you. That's why we've included a Leadership Growth Chart in this module.

Here's the chart.

On it, give yourself a rating for each trait. Don't worry if you are weak in several areas right now. If we're honest, we all are.

The key is to have a growth mindset, a belief that through hard work and focus you can improve. If you have a growth mindset and you keep trying to improve, you are bound to grow. You'll chart your growth as a leader throughout your time at Lead2Play.

Let's talk a bit more about these six effective leadership traits and how they apply to Lead2Play.

Effective leaders are:

**Positive:** Positive energy can make almost any situation better. And, in a play space, positivity is the secret sauce. It energizes. It cushions failure. Meaning, it is much easier to fail in front of a positive leader than a negative one. And, that's huge in place spaces because kids are learning new games and skills all of the time, and, naturally, they'll make mistakes. A positive leader makes those mistakes ok. They are just part of the learning process. So, effective leaders are positive leaders. And, their positivity makes everyone around them feel better about themselves and about life.

**Service Oriented:** We think the best play leaders put others first. They serve. They listen. They put themselves in other's shoes. And, they try to meet other's needs. As a result, they design and lead play experiences that other youth love.

**Responsible:** You can count on effective leaders. They have great follow through. They are true to their word. They don't blame. They get stuff done. This means they are always well prepared when they get to a play space and lead.

**Clear:** In leading play, the one thing that followers need most is clarity. They want to know what the rules are, where they should go, what to do. Effective leaders communicate clearly. And their followers follow without confusion.

**Assertive:** Shy people can lead. But, when they do, like everyone else, they must be assertive. In charge. Effective play leaders make that clear with a strong, positive posture and a confident voice.

**Appreciative:** Some people lead to get praise. We think the best leaders lead to give praise. In fact, they are eager to give credit to others. And they are slow to take it for themselves. Great leaders are humble. They appreciate others. And they let them know it through positive affirmations.

So, as you lead, keep these six traits in mind: positive, service-oriented, responsible, clear, assertive, and appreciative. Then work on becoming those things. You'll be a better leader, and as a result you'll have better followers too.