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Resources to Help Your Child Become a Leader

By: Kristin Louis, July 2021

Some children are natural-born leaders. Others need a little guidance to find and follow their own inner voice. In either case, it's vital the adults in their lives nurture and foster those abilities in order for them to grow. Young people don't need to be destined for the White House for leadership skills to make a difference in their lives. When they are able to lead, they're less likely to fall prey to the whims of others.

The Boys and Girls Clubs of the Coastal Bend knows how important it is to [foster confidence](#) in children early on. After all, young people are the driving force behind this movement. Here are a few ideas of habits, books, and activities parents and caregivers can use to help kids grow into leaders:

Your Behavior Matters

Kids watch adults closely for cues on how to behave:

- Your child won't trust themselves if you don't trust them, so allow them to take [age-appropriate risks](#) early and often.
- Children learn from example: Show them your own leadership skills by participating in local government or acquiring that [master's in IT](#) you've been meaning to complete.
- Pay attention to [their interests](#) and encourage them to pursue the things that they're passionate about.

Reader to Leader

These books teach kids how to be themselves and recognize their own strengths:

- Here are some [children's books](#) designed to instill confidence.
- These books are all about [famous leaders in history](#).
- Books like these teach kids how to [think in creative ways](#).

Leadership-Forward Activities

Help your child spend time in pursuit of leadership skills:

- Encourage your child to volunteer for causes they care about. Check out the BGC of the Coastal Bend bulletin often for [upcoming events](#) and volunteer opportunities.
- Spend [plenty of time outdoors](#) to encourage good physical and mental health.
- Help your child choose a [club or afterschool activity](#) they can enjoy, and encourage them to try out a leadership position.

The role of parents, caregivers, and role models is to help kids grow into the best adults they can become. By instilling leadership skills, you can show young people they can (and should) believe in themselves. This ability to trust their own instincts will serve them well for the rest of their lives.