SKILL TREE™

9: *The Magic of Leadership*

PK–6

A PK–6 Lesson on Setting an Example, Uplifting Others, and Taking Initiative

Introduction for the Facilitator

This lesson introduces PK–6 students to the professional skill of **leadership**, defined as the ability to guide, influence, and support others by using our strengths, values, and voice. Leadership isn't just about being "in charge." It's about making good choices, taking initiative, and lifting others up.

Students often think of leaders as the loudest person in the room. This lesson helps them reframe leadership as **showing up with courage, kindness, and consistency**, even when no one is watching. Every student can be a leader—on the playground, in their family, during class discussions, and in everyday moments.

Leadership becomes part of a student's **personal competitive advantage** when they take small steps every day to do the right thing. And it directly supports their **lifestyle goals**, helping them create a life where they feel confident, connected, and ready to make a difference.

This lesson includes:

- **A Social Story that makes leadership real**
- **8 Group Discussion Questions with follow-ups**
- **8 Journal Prompts (draw or write)**
- **10 practical and inclusive classroom Activities**
- **A printable Worksheet to reflect on personal leadership choices**

Let's help students see that leadership isn't a title—it's a way of thinking, acting, and caring every single day.

CAREER TREE®

AUTHORED BY markcperna

The Education with Purpose® Career Tree® and Skill Tree™ name, image, philosophy, and strategies are the intellectual property of Mark C. Perna.
Any use of these materials, in whole or in part, without an active Career Tree license is strictly prohibited by law.

©Mark C. Perna® - All Rights Reserved V1 I markcperna.com

Social Story: *Tariq's Turn to Lead*

Tariq didn't think of himself as a leader. He wasn't the fastest runner. He didn't love being the center of attention. But when his teacher asked, "Who can help organize the book drive?" Tariq's hand went up—kind of on its own.

At first, he wasn't sure what to do. He asked his friends for ideas. He wrote down a plan. He helped make posters and reminded people with kind words. When another student wanted to change the plan last minute, Tariq said, "Let's listen to everyone and decide together."



By the end of the week, every student in the class had brought a book. Tariq didn't raise the most. He didn't speak the most. But he showed up every day, stayed kind when things got tricky, and helped others feel included.

At the celebration, Ms. Randall smiled. "Tariq, thank you for leading with your heart."

That's when it clicked. Leadership wasn't about being the boss. It was about being brave enough to begin. Kind enough to listen. And consistent enough to keep going.

Tariq had unlocked a new part of his **personal competitive advantage**, which was the ability to guide others through example. And it helped him build the kind of **lifestyle** he wanted: respectful, responsible, and full of purpose.

Group Discussion Questions

1. **What does leadership mean to you?**
   Follow-up: Can someone be a leader without being in charge?
2. **What does a great leader do when things get hard?**
   Follow-up: What helps them stay steady?
3. **How can a leader help other people feel important?**
   Follow-up: What does it feel like to be included and heard?
4. **What happens when someone leads in a way that is kind?**
   Follow-up: How does that affect the group?
5. **What is a quiet way someone can show leadership?**
   Follow-up: What are small steps that make a big difference?
6. **What kind of leader do you want to be?**
   Follow-up: How can you start becoming that leader today?
7. **How can leadership help you grow your personal competitive advantage?**
   Follow-up: What leadership habits would help you stand out?
8. **What kind of lifestyle do you want to live?**
   Follow-up: How can leadership help you create that kind of life?

©Mark C. Perna® - All Rights Reserved V1 I **markcperna.com**

Journal Prompts

(Students can write or draw their answers based on age and ability.)

1. **Draw or write about a time you showed leadership, big or small.**
2. **Describe someone you know who is a good leader. What do they do?**
3. **What kind of leader do you want to be? What values are most important to you?**
4. **Write or draw about how a good leader helps others.**
5. **If you were the leader of a team or club, how would you include everyone?**
6. **What's one leadership skill you want to build this week?**
7. **How can being a leader help you build your personal competitive advantage?**
8. **How does leadership help you live the lifestyle you want?**

Activities

1. **Leadership Scenarios**
   Role-play leadership moments (e.g., helping a new student, solving a group problem) and discuss the choices that showed leadership.
2. **Leadership Quote Wall**
   Display simple quotes about leadership. Students reflect, respond, or illustrate what each one means to them.
3. **Kind Leader Challenge**
   Students choose one small act of leadership to complete each day: helping, including, organizing, encouraging.
4. **Follow the Quiet Leader**
   Choose a student who leads through action, not words. Have the class reflect on what they observed and learned.
5. **The Listening Leader**
   Students practice leadership by listening first in a group activity, then summarizing what others shared before speaking.
6. **Leadership Compliments**
   Create compliment cards to give to classmates who showed leadership that day or week.
7. **Leadership Role Rotations**
   Rotate student leadership roles each day (line leader, classroom helper, group guide) so everyone experiences leading.
8. **Lead a Game**
   Students plan and lead a short game or transition activity, practicing clear instructions and inclusion.
9. **Posters with Purpose**
   Students design posters that show what good leadership looks like in their classroom or community.
10. **My Leadership Superhero**
    Create a character who leads with compassion, courage, and consistency. What powers do they use?

©Mark C. Perna® - All Rights Reserved V1 I markcperna.com

My Leadership Snapshot

Name:

Helpful Words:

- **Leadership** = guiding others by setting a good example and helping the group
- **Lifestyle Goal** = the kind of life I want to live
- **Personal Competitive Advantage** = my special strengths and habits that help me grow

Directions:
Write or draw your answers. Every great leader starts with small steps.

Use the back of this sheet if you need more space.

1. **A time I showed leadership was:**

2. **My favorite way to lead is by:**
(Helping, organizing, encouraging, listening...)

3. **Someone I think is a great leader is:**

4. **I want to be a leader who is:**

5. **My Leadership Superpower helps me do these things:**

6. **Leadership helps me grow my personal competitive advantage by:**

7. **This is how leadership helps me live the lifestyle I want:**

©Mark C. Perna® - All Rights Reserved V1 I **markcperna.com**