

Preparation for Adulthood: Supervising for Success Ten Tips for Becoming a Better Leader®

Tip #1: Be Self Aware

Pay attention to your feelings and take time to reflect on your experiences. Be aware of the impact you have on others.

Tip #2: Manage Your Emotions

Manage your emotions instead of allowing your emotions to manage you!

Tip #3: Seek Feedback

Ask for honest and constructive feedback from others, not only about what you're doing well but about areas for improvement.

Tip #4: Take the Initiative

Be proactive and take the initiative to solve problems and meet challenges. It's your learning, your career, your life – Take charge of it!!!

Tip #5: Engage a Coach

The best leaders all have coaches. Find someone who is willing and able to watch you perform, give you candid feedback, make suggestions for improvement and provide you with social support. Your coach should be someone you can lean on from time to time.

Tip #6: Set Goals and Make a Plan

Be purposeful in your pursuit of leadership excellence and set high expectations for yourself and others. Make your leadership goals public and create a plan for achieving these goals.

Tip #7: Practice, Practice, Practice!

You're more likely to become an expert at what you do if you practice. Successful leaders take learning seriously and are willing to put themselves in challenging situations and take risks.

Tip #8: Measure Progress

Are you making progress or just marking time? Create a system to help you monitor and measure your progress toward your goals on a regular basis. This kind of self monitoring can also include soliciting feedback from others.

Tip #9: Reward Yourself

Connect your successful performance to rewards! Don't wait around for someone else to recognize your progress and accomplishments.

Tip #10: Be Honest with Yourself and Humble with Others

Honesty and credibility are essential to leadership. Reflect on your own personal strengths and weaknesses. Be open to admitting mistakes and suggestions for improvement. Humility goes a long way to establishing credibility!

Adapted from Kouzes and Posner (2003) *The Leadership Challenge*