

QUALITIES OF *effective* LEADERSHIP

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Having a range of qualities can be very beneficial for any leader. Leaders help bring the team together to work towards a common goal. When I was younger, I believed that leaders merely issued instructions. However, I now understand that being an effective leader involves much more than that. Effective leaders possess several qualities; here are a few:

Communication: Effective communication is essential for a functional workplace. To help improve communication, be thoughtful in selecting what words are used, listen attentively to others, and be mindful of nonverbal cues, such as tone, body language, and facial expressions.

Adaptability: As a leader, it's important to be adaptable when faced with unexpected challenges or situations that don't go as planned. Day-to-day operations can be unpredictable, but as the point person, it's crucial to remain calm and flexible to support and guide employees through any obstacles or changes.

Respect: Treating others with respect helps create a culture of trust. There are many ways to show respect in relationships, and many times this starts with seeking to understand the individuals you lead. Remember—every team member plays a role in the goal you are trying to accomplish.



Team building: Building a strong and connected team is an important role a leader plays. Foster stronger connections within your team by prioritizing intentional opportunities for team bonding and connecting with each team member. Having a healthy work culture and a connected team can enhance trust, effectiveness, and boost employee morale.

Self-awareness: Practicing self-awareness requires doing the “inner work” and continuously acknowledging our strengths and weaknesses. It also helps us to recognize our biases. It is crucial to work hard in developing this skill to ensure continuous growth as a leader.

Effective leadership is essential for any organization's success. Know that effective leadership can be learned and developed rather than being an inherent trait, and it's possible to work on improving each of these qualities!

As a leader, embodying these traits will enhance your leadership skills and create an environment where the individuals you lead can also develop and enhance these qualities.