

Professional Development Activity on Leadership Reflection

We would like to conclude this book with a final professional development activity called the *leadership tree*. You will note that the tree and the students on or around it create a simple, childlike visual, but the implications for growth are most serious for the team. Activities such as this can include humor or levity.

Time Frame

The team should allow ten to twenty minutes for this activity.

Materials

This activity requires the leadership tree. It should be distributed to each participating team member or displayed publicly.

Process

One team member should volunteer as facilitator. The facilitator should take the team through the following three steps.

1. After everyone reviews the visual of the leadership tree, ask the following questions. (You might choose for the team to answer one, two, or all three questions depending on time and interest.)
 - “Thinking of school counselors and administrators as a team, what role do I contribute as a team member as illustrated by a child on the leadership tree? Why?”
 - “Thinking collectively about the school counselor–administrator team, which child best represents our team currently? Why?”
 - “Thinking of our school counselor–administrator team collectively, which child best describes where we would like to be over the next year or more? Why?”
2. Ask each team member to volunteer his or her answers and rationale. Other team members may ask questions for clarity but should judge no answer.
3. Restate the common areas and the differences identified in the discussion. If team members shared any points of strength or challenge, ask them how this information might help the team now and in the future.

Results

Participation in this activity offers an opportunity to reflect on the team’s health as well as reflect on individual member contributions. Participation encourages a degree of vulnerability, which contributes to an open, honest assessment of the team’s future. That, in turn, enables planning for the future.

The Leadership Tree



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