



Leadership How-To

15 Management Lessons from Preschoolers

Taking smart risks. Asking probing questions. Celebrating achievements. Having boundless enthusiasm, and an eagerness to explore new territories. And even believing that you can be a super hero – if you have a super hero cape!

These are the traits that define successful organizations and the people that drive them. Applying a preschooler's view of the world to management lessons can help any organization achieve more. They're lessons from the snack room that can easily apply to the boardroom.

It's important to create management lessons that are simple, and inspire people to achieve greatness both as individuals and as a team.



OUR FIFTEEN MANAGEMENT LESSONS FROM PRESCHOOLERS

1. Be a Superhero

There are people doing the extraordinary all around us, and each of us can achieve great things.

2. Don't Be Afraid to Fail

Kids fail all the time. That's how they learn, grow, and become successful.

3. Have a Vision & Communicate Relentlessly

Craft a visionary story about where your organization is going, and tell the story all the time.

4. Play Games

Motivation stems from a sense of competition and scorekeeping. Turn work tasks into fun or interesting games, and productivity will increase.

5. Ask "Why?"

Ask probing questions to get at the underlying problems or opportunities – not just the surface ones.

6. Share

Within organizations, people need to share best practices and build upon your “collective wisdom”.

7. Be Creative

One idea, plus another unrelated idea, equals a new idea. It's that simple.

8. Take Smart Risks

There isn't enough smart risk-taking going on in today's organizations. Only when people take risks can organizations grow and improve.

9. Take a Deep Breath & Use Words

There is too much uncooperative and passive-aggressive behaviour in today's workplaces. That hurts corporate cultures. And when feeling stressed out or resentful, people need to identify what's bothering them with precision, instead of bottling up anger and negative feelings.

10. Take One Step Backwards & Two Steps Forward

It is against our nature to undo what we've already finished, but it is often the most productive thing to do.

11. Get the Bad News Over with Quickly

The longer you take to deal with bad news or make tough decisions, the worse it is for everyone.

12. Pursue Your Passion

Nurture your natural strengths and invest in your interests, and encourage others to do the same. It's our individual personalities that strengthen teams and organizations.



13. The Shortest Distance Between Point A and Point B Isn't Always a Straight Line

Focus your attention – and your messages to people on your team – on the ultimate objective.

14. Celebrate Achievement

Celebrating reminds us of the greatness in ourselves – and in others.

15. Get the Most Out of Every Single Day

Don't forget your cape. Find your passion by working to change the world for the better – in small ways and in bigger ones – every single day.

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