



Parent Leadership Checklist

Before you take on a parent leadership role, you may want to review this checklist to be sure you fully understand the scope of the job you're undertaking and the extent of its commitment.

Know what the job is:	Yes	No	Notes
Do I have a clear understanding of the job requirements?			
Are the anticipated outcomes the ones I wish to promote?			
Will I represent a broad group of parents or just myself?			
If I represent a larger group, do I understand what is involved in communicating with my group?			
To whom will be accountable?			
Understand the personal costs:			
How much of my time will this require?			
How will the costs of communication, travel, childcare, food and other expenses be paid?			
Will this work, combined with other things going on in my life, create too much stress for my family and me?			
Do I have strong self-care skills and a personal support system on which I can rely?			
Evaluate your expertise:			
Do I need to improve my communication skills, need training in public speaking and working with adult learners?			
Do I need to learn more about the public policy process, and systems that serve children and families?			

It's important to consider these qualities, but unless the answers clearly reveal that this is not the right time to take on more responsibility, don't let anyone dissuade you. Skills can always be polished or learned by doing. You have your own individual gift and strengths to bring to this important job. In exchange for your leadership, you will find an opportunity for personal growth and the chance to make a difference in the lives of children, and their parents and practitioners.