

Let's have a conversation!

Monthly dialogue with parents of Bal Bharatians on student-centric issues



Bal Bharati
PUBLIC SCHOOL

Dear Parent,

Every month, we seek views, ideas and suggestions from you, on various topics that are important for the progress and well-being of your child. Parents' inputs are invaluable in helping us shape the school's policies and practices to better serve the needs of our students.

Here we are featuring some of the thought-provoking responses to the topic of the month.

TOPIC

What are some ways we can help our students develop leadership skills, and provide them with opportunities to practise these skills?



Here are a few qualities/ skills leaders are known for, that can be learned through simple activities at a young age:

- Storytelling, to improve expression and communication skills.
- Micro activities which require courage (but are safe), such as rope walk.
- Helping kids express themselves and overcome the fear of making mistakes.
- Encouraging kids to share things they are most fond of.
- Using "We" where they would normally use "I". Teaching them to feel happy in a situation where their team wins, and in win-win scenarios.
- Feeling and expressing respect for others is best inculcated from childhood.
- Round robin roleplaying as a team leader and team player.
- Nurturing qualities at a higher level for kids who are good at basics.

As the presence or deficiency of a given quality will differ between one kid and the other, a personal touch and focused approach is the key, which I feel Bal Bharati is already very good at.



Prabuddha Chaturvedi, Father of Divija, Class I, BBPS Dwarka



Parents can help develop leadership skills in their children by encouraging them to participate in extracurricular activities such as sports, clubs, or community service, recognising and celebrating the child's achievements and victories, and providing opportunities for them to share their thoughts, feelings, and ideas. Most importantly, I think we, as parents, should act as role models for our children by exhibiting leadership qualities such as integrity and resilience in our behaviour, and by providing opportunities for our children to take up leadership roles within the family and in other settings too.

Megha Batra, Mother of Ruhansh, Class Pre-Primary, BBPS Gangaram

There are various ways to help students develop leadership skills and provide them with opportunities to practice these skills:

- Offer workshops covering communication, decision-making, teamwork, and conflict resolution.
- Establish leadership roles like club presidents or team captains in the student council.
- Promote community service for empathy, teamwork, and problem-solving.
- Assign mentors to guide students in leadership development.
- Implement project-based learning for collaborative decision-making and leadership.
- Facilitate opportunities for public speaking and debate participation.
- Recognise and reward students demonstrating leadership qualities, inspiring others to follow suit.



Hemant Patel, Father of Nishant, Class VI, BBPS Jhanor

Leadership hinges on effective decision-making, honed through analysis of all the relevant facts and reflection on outcomes of the decision. We must train students to make informed choices, fostering self-confidence. Timeliness in decisions is crucial; prompt action, even if partially correct, yields better results compared to a perfect decision delayed beyond its utility. Students need to learn how to cultivate this trait by adhering to schedules. Interpersonal skills, too, are paramount – leaders rally team members around shared goals. This ability to arrange resources from different team members, motivating them and bringing them on board can be inculcated by assigning collaborative tasks. It may be helpful to engage students in simulation games and problem-solving activities to foster critical thinking and risk-taking. These experiences can help them overcome their fear of failure while sharpening decision-making prowess.



Atul Nayak & Neeti Tiwari Nayak, Parents of Aadya, Class VI, BBPS Khargone

One way is to set up a 'Sansad in School,' where students from Classes IX-XII are elected for a one-year tenure. They participate in a parliamentary democracy format with voting rights. It includes positions such as President, Secretary, and Prefects representing each house, who manage co-curricular activities, cultural events, sports events, and morning assemblies. All house students may vote for the nominee candidates, who then debate and give extempore speeches on why they should be elected and what their agenda will be. This can include proposing more sports and cultural events, and facilitating group studies for Olympiad, JEE, and CUET preparations, among other things. The elected body may have dedicated one-hour weekly meetings to plan and conduct their affairs.



Rahul Subnani, Father of Dakshraj, Class VII, BBPS Manesar

To develop leadership skills, students can be exposed to some motivational lectures and practical workshops on:

1. How to grow self-awareness and work on missing aspects in one's personality.
2. How to become a good reader and good learner.
3. How to avoid shortcuts and keep oneself stable during unfavourable situations.
4. How to improve one's mental and psychological capabilities.
5. How to assess and take risks to do new things, to make oneself better and more resourceful than earlier.



Nisha Gautam, Mother of Ayana, Class XI, BBPS Navi Mumbai

Leadership plays a big role in a student's life, teaching him or her to navigate various challenges effectively - whether they relate to academics, adulting issues, or employment conflicts. Leadership is a quality that motivates, influences and directs people. Some are born leaders, whereas some need to develop it. Here are some tips for any student to develop leadership qualities:

- Follow rules and achieve consensus with team members instead of insisting on personal preferences.
- Develop discipline in personal and school life, for becoming an effective leader in the future.
- Cultivate problem solving skills to tackle life's challenges.
- Take on multiple responsibilities to step out of your comfort zone and fulfil multiple duties.
- Collaborate and establish trust with peers for speedy problem resolution through social connections.
- Do a self-assessment of strengths and weaknesses.
- Seek out diverse perspectives and knowledge sources.
- Reflect on actions and results, to understand what worked and what didn't, and why.



Rukmani Dubey, Mother of Pranay, Class IV, BBPS Nishatpura

Today, as our country plays an active role in global affairs, there is a major demand from companies and others for people who possess leadership skills. And there is no better place than the school for a child to be imparted with these essential life skills. A school can help students enhance their leadership skills by initiating the concepts of peer leadership wherein older students can mentor younger ones, promoting a positive leadership culture within the student body, through student-led initiatives (for example - assigning a group activity on a monthly basis, and at the end of the month, asking the students to present their projects). Another opportunity to enhance students' leadership skills could be the introduction of internships with certificates, and the school should facilitate this through its alumni network. The school must also host insightful leadership workshops and seminars, allowing students to learn from professionals and experts in various fields.



Bhavna Arora Manocha, Mother of Ishani, Class XI, BBPS Noida

To develop leadership skills in students, camps, workshops and clubs should be introduced revolving around teamwork. Once a month, some time should be devoted to learning leadership skills through activities like staging a play and allowing students to organise rehearsals and assign roles without restrictions. Peer-to-peer mentorship programmes can be arranged where senior students can guide their juniors. Public speaking courses and community service programmes have a lasting impact on the young learners. Special focus should be on children who are capable, but lack confidence, in their abilities. I am satisfied that Bal Bharati Public School takes initiatives to build such skills.



Nidhi Aggarwal, Mother of Ansh, Class IX, BBPS Pitampura

We can encourage children to explore diverse interests to understand themselves better, a crucial step in developing leadership skills. Before focusing on leadership qualities, we must instil fundamental traits that define a true leader:

- Foster curiosity by exposing them to various subjects and experiences, asking open-ended questions, and supporting their ideas.
- Teach empathy through compassionate actions and helping them recognise emotions in themselves and others.
- Cultivate resilience by providing a supportive environment, encouraging them to face challenges and persevere.
- Stimulate creativity by allowing exploration, experimentation, and self-expression without judgement.
- Promote teamwork by involving them in collaborative projects and encouraging interaction with peers.
- Inspire action by helping them identify passions and values, guiding them to pursue goals, take risks, and learn from experiences.



Ranjana Kashyap, Mother of Pratiush, Class Pre-Primary, BBPS Solan

TOPIC FOR THE NEXT MONTH

How can we promote teamwork and collaboration among our students, and what are some benefits of these skills for their future success?

Share with us your frank views about the topic. There is no correct or incorrect answer. All responses will help us in making the journey of our students more productive and joyful.