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Westchester Institute for Human Development
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Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and related Disabilities (LEND) Program

Learning Module: How do you define leadership?

This series of interactive learning activities asked trainees to reflect on the concept of leadership. The learning activities targeted MCH Competency 2: Self-Reflection and MCH Competency 3: Ethics and Professionalism. Below is an outline of the activities with examples of student work products.

I. Leadership Definition Networking Activity

- Students were asked to write their own definition of leadership. Then, trainees were asked to participate in the following activity. They were asked to switch a few times, in order to gain multiple perspectives.

What is Leadership?

Stand up, Hand up, Pair up with someone new

Directions:
 Partner 1 shares their leadership definition.
 Partner 2 responds, gives feedback.
 Partner 2 shares their leadership definition.
 Partner 1 responds, gives feedback.

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- Here are two examples of trainee's leadership definitions

My leadership definition.....

A person who acknowledges his/her strengths and character and uses these, in collaboration with others, to make a change.

My leadership definition.....

Leadership is the quality or skill set that allows one to guide a group in a way that promotes teamwork but celebrates strengths while building on weaknesses.

↑ individual ↓ individual



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II. Leadership Literature: Text Rendering Experience

- Students were put into small groups. Each group received a different short piece of literature about leadership. While they read, they were asked to work on the [Text-Rendering Experience](#) protocol from the [National School Reform Faculty](#). The protocol asked trainees to cite a sentence, phrase, and word from the text that they felt were particularly meaningful. Then, trainees shared these with their group. Finally, trainees were asked to share a brief synopsis of their literature with the large group.

III. Leadership Video and Reflection

- Students watched the video "[Everyday Leadership](#)" by Drew Dudley on TED Talks.
- After students watched, they were asked to reflect on the questions below, which then guided a whole group conversation.

Reflection Questions:

1. How did you feel about the following comment? "We take this title of leader and we treat it as if it's something that one day we are going to deserve."
2. What MCH competencies are evident from the "Lollipop Story"? (think about the context in which it happened)
3. Reflect on your own life. Have you been the catalyst or recipient of a "Lollipop moment"? Can you think of any 'missed' Lollipop moments?
4. Discuss your analysis of the following statement: "It is so scary to think of ourselves as that powerful. It can be frightening to think that we can matter that much to other people. Because as long as we make leadership something bigger than us..... then we give ourselves an excuse not to expect it every day from ourselves and from each other."
5. How did your definition of leadership compare to Drew's redefinition of everyday leadership?



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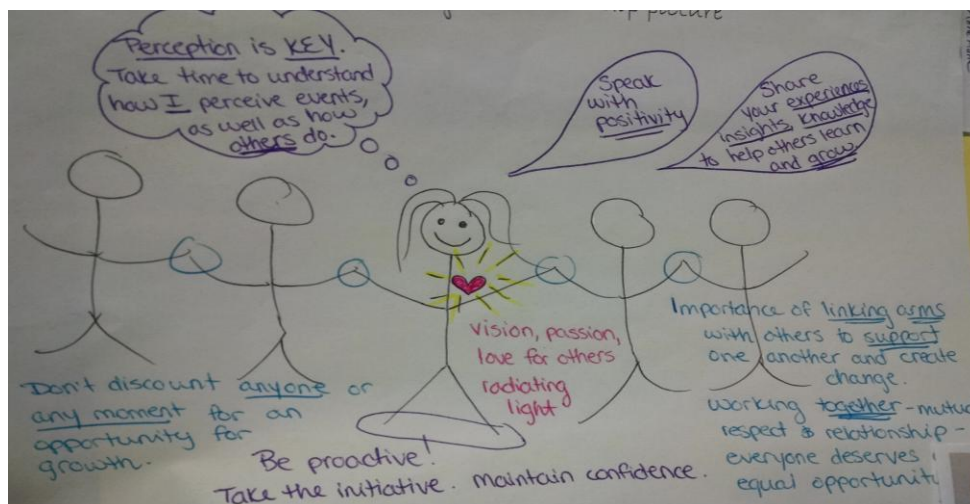
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IV. Creating a Visual Representation of Leadership

- Trainees were asked to self-reflect about how they view themselves as leaders and create a visual representation. These pictures and diagrams were displayed during our 'Welcome to LEND Reception'. Below are a few examples of the trainee's work, as well as the display.

Visual Representations:





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Reception Display:

