

Weekly Message Weekly Message



Greetings special friends,
I hope your Easter weekend was fun and successful with your friends and families. Things are jumping around here as teams begin to prepare for summer camps. Many are choosing private camps to have a professional instructor to come to their school while others are ready to pack up and go away to camp to enjoy the experience of bonding away from home. Make sure to visit our web site to look at the many options that your team will have for camp.
<http://www.danceadts.com/summercamps.htm>

Here are some thoughts for the day:

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**"Truth keeps the hand cleaner than soap."  
African proverb**  
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**"Half the secret of getting along with people is consideration of their views;
the other half is tolerance in one's own views."
Daniel Frohmann (1851-1940) theater and film professor**
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**"As a leader you should always start with where people are before you try to take them to where you want them to go."  
Jim Rohn**  
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**"To become successful and outstanding at something, we don't have to come up with something new;
we need only find ways of doing it better."
Earl Nightingale**
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This is the time of year that many of you as directors and teachers decide whether you are staying on to the next year, moving away because of marriage or family or staying with your same position. For those of you that are moving on, please keep in mind to post your opening on the [www.dtda.com](http://www.dtda.com) web site under **Job Fair**. Applicants that are seeking a job may also post their information. This is one of the most important networks that you, as dance professionals, have to find or advertise an opening in dance.

There are many great qualities in being a great leader. Many of you may be a

leader in your work, your charity or volunteer efforts, in your school or in your church. Each leader has traits that will either lead to their success or failure. Below, Jim Rohn, has outlined some of those traits that truly contribute to the success of a great leader: strength, kindness, humble, pride, humor and more. I hope that the passage will speak to you, as a leader, as it did to me.

Have a fabulous week, and, as always, please *keep in touch*.

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*Sincerely,*

*Joyce E. Pennington, Pres. CEO*

*American Dance/Drill Team*

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## **The Qualities of Skillful Leadership**

**by Jim Rohn**

If you want to be a leader who attracts quality people, the key is to become a person of quality yourself. Leadership is the ability to attract someone to the gifts, skills, and opportunities you offer as an owner, as a manager, as a parent. I call leadership the great challenge of life.

What's important in leadership is refining your skills. All great leaders keep working on themselves until they become effective. Here are some specifics:

- 1) Learn to be strong but not rude. It is an extra step you must take to become a powerful, capable leader with a wide range of reach. Some people mistake rudeness for strength. It's not even a good substitute.
- 2) Learn to be kind but not weak. We must not mistake kindness for weakness. Kindness isn't weak. Kindness is a certain type of strength. We must be kind enough to tell somebody the truth. We must be kind enough and considerate enough to lay it on the line. We must be kind enough to tell it like it is and not deal in delusion.
- 3) Learn to be bold but not a bully. It takes boldness to win the day. To build your influence, you've got to walk in front of your group. You've got to be willing to take the first arrow, tackle the first problem, discover the first sign of trouble.
- 4) You've got to learn to be humble, but not timid. You can't get to the



high life by being timid. Some people mistake timidity for humility. Humility is almost a God-like word. A sense of awe. It is a sense of wonder. It is an awareness of the human soul and spirit. It is an understanding that there is something unique about the human drama versus the rest of life. Humility is a grasp of the distance between us and the stars, yet we have the feeling that we're part of the stars. So humility is a virtue; but timidity is a disease. Timidity is an affliction. It can be cured, but it is a problem.

5) Be proud but not arrogant. It takes pride to win the day. It takes pride to build your ambition. It takes pride in community. It takes pride in cause, in

accomplishment. But the key to becoming a good leader is being proud without being arrogant. In fact I believe the worst kind of arrogance is arrogance from ignorance. It's when you don't know that you don't know. Now that kind of arrogance is intolerable. If someone is smart and arrogant, we can tolerate that. But if someone is ignorant and arrogant, that's just too much to take.

6) Develop humor without folly. That's important for a leader. In leadership, we learn that it's okay to be witty, but not silly. It's okay to be fun, but not foolish.

Lastly, deal in realities. Deal in truth. Save yourself the agony. Just accept life like it is. Life is unique. Some people call it tragic, but I'd like to think it's unique. The whole drama of life is unique. It's fascinating. And I've found that the skills that work well for one leader may not work at all for another. But the fundamental skills of leadership can be adapted to work well for just about everyone: at work, in the community, and at home.

To Your Success,  
Jim Rohn