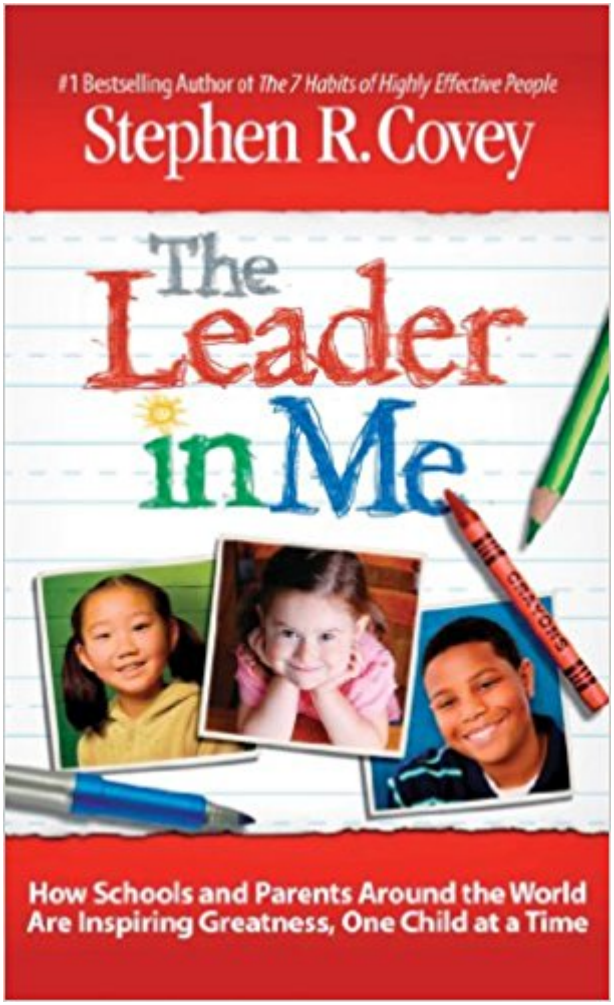
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The Leader In Me: How Schools And Parents Around The World Are Inspiring Greatness, One Child At A Time



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Synopsis

We only get one chance to prepare our students for a future that none of us can possibly predict. What are we going to do with that one chance? The world has entered an era of the most profound and challenging change in human history. Most of our children are not prepared, and we know it. Parents around the world see the change and know that the traditional three Rs - reading, writing and arithmetic - are necessary, but not enough. Their children need to become far more responsible, creative, and tolerant of differences. They need to increase their ability to think for themselves, take initiative, get along with others, and solve problems. Business leaders are not finding people whose skills and character match the demands of today's global economy, including strong communication; teamwork; analytical, technology, and organizational skills - young people who are self-motivated, creative, and who have a strong work ethic. How will we bridge this ever-widening gap? The Leader in Me is the story of a growing number of extraordinary schools, parents, and business leaders around the world who are preparing a generation of children to truly lead their own lives and meet the great challenges and opportunities of the 21st century. The Leader in Me shows how easy it is to incorporate these skills into daily life. It is a timely answer to many of the challenges facing today's young people, businesses, parents, and educators - one that is perfectly matched to the global demands of the 21st century.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Dr. Stephen R. Covey is an internationally respected leadership authority, teacher, author, organizational consultant, and co-founder and vice chairman of Franklin Covey Co. He is author of

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, which Chief Executive magazine has called the most influential business book of the last 100 years. The book has sold nearly 20 million copies, and after 20 years, still holds a place on most best-seller lists. Dr. Covey earned an MBA from Harvard and a doctorate from BYU, where he was a professor of organizational behavior. For more than 40 years, he has taught millions of people Ã¢â ¬â • including leaders of nations and corporations Ã¢â ¬â • the transforming power of the principles that govern individual and organizational effectiveness. He and his wife live in the Rocky Mountains of Utah.

Foreword As much as any professional work I have embarked upon, this book comes from my heart. It both thrills and humbles me like you cannot imagine. It involves today's young people. It involves our future. Whether you are a concerned parent, a professional educator, or a foresighted business leader, I am confident you will find it to be an invigorating breath of fresh air, a reason to celebrate and an inspiring call for action. For what you are about to read unveils a budding trend that is gaining momentum in a growing number of schools across the United States and in various parts of the world. It is an exciting trend -- one that is producing tangible, sustainable results. From the get-go, I want you to know that I am not the mastermind behind the trend. Rather, credit goes to an expanding community of committed, creative, and caring professional educators who have synergistically joined forces with parents, civic leaders, and business proprietors to bring about a new level of hope in education. To set the context, let me take you back a few years to what seems like yesterday. In 1989, The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People was published. Its subtitle was "Restoring the Character Ethic." The book caught a wave that even I had no way of anticipating, particularly in organizational arenas. Today, the 7 Habits are still thriving in boardrooms, government offices, and corporate universities around the globe. About the same time as the 7 Habits book was launched, I was approached by Chuck Farnsworth, who at the time was superintendent of schools for a progressive district in Indiana. Chuck felt strongly that the 7 Habits had an important role to play in the world of education, and he was passionately determined to lead the charge. He began by taking the habits to school administrators and teachers. To date, nearly a half million professional educators have been trained in the 7 Habits, with many of them being certified as school facilitators. As we brought the 7 Habits into schools, the focus remained on training adults, not students. That changed in 1998, when my son, Sean, wrote The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens. Sean had been a Division I college football quarterback, which created frequent opportunities for him to be in front of teen audiences. He developed a sincere interest in young people that eventually propelled him to write the teen version. More than three million teen

copies have now been sold, and Student Activity Guides have carried the habits to over a hundred thousand middle and high school students. In the latter part of 1999, the 7 Habits made another significant entry into schools. During a presentation in Washington, D.C., I was approached by an elementary school principal named Muriel Summers. She wanted to know if I thought the 7 Habits could be taught to young children. I pointed her toward Sean's book, but she came back with the reply that she was referring to very young children -- as young as five years old. I responded, "I don't know why not," and then casually added that if she ever tried to do it to let me know how it went. This book contains the account of what Muriel and her talented staff initiated following that brief encounter. It is a tremendous story, one that has been simmering, thickening, rippling, and gaining momentum (and even some notoriety) for some time, as the percentage of students achieving end-of-grade targets has gone from 84 to 97 percent and the school has gone from the brink of nearly being terminated as a magnet school to being named the number one magnet school in America. How? With great success they, and now scores of other schools, have been teaching the 7 Habits and other leadership principles to elementary school students -- yes, even five-year-olds. Their approach is unique and may even surprise you. Their intent has not been to prepare students to become CEOs or world leaders, but rather to teach them how to lead their individual lives and how to succeed in the twenty-first century. I believe you will discover in their approach some highly credible and principle-based solutions to some of the most discouraging dilemmas facing schools today. In approaching the topic of education, I am keenly aware that today's educators are constantly under a microscope and have been the targets of abundant negative press in recent years. Such is not the intent of this book. Rather than being a critic, I prefer to promote the good. I honestly believe that it is difficult to spend time in most any school these days without departing in absolute reverence of some incredible teachers -- noble mentors who have sacrificed much to do what they love and what they believe will make a difference in young lives. To focus only on the negative in education while ignoring what the true heroes are doing would be a tragic act of ingratitude. Some may view my efforts as self-serving. I acknowledge why some might feel that way, but I am willing to risk that perception because I so strongly believe in what these schools are doing for today's young people. Indeed, it is the profound successes that these schools are having that has inspired Franklin Covey to devote more of its mission toward partnering with schools, businesses, parents, and community leaders to create resources that will better enable young people to prepare for the world that awaits them -- a world that none of us can fully predict. Likewise, it was the successes of these schools that ignited Sean's desire to write his recently released book, The 7 Habits of Happy Kids. Both this book and Sean's book -- along with a whole

series of new The Leader in Me resources and website materials -- are vital components in FranklinCovey's effort to do more toward the betterment of societies and young people of all nations. This book represents the combined efforts of many people. My partner, Boyd Craig, provided visionary leadership and direction to the entire team and project. Dr. David K. Hatch shepherded the research efforts with passion, dedication, and world class character and competence. He took my heart, put data behind it, and helped me transfer it to paper. Their efforts were competently supported by Franklin Covey's Education Solutions team, in particular Sarah Noble, Connie Spencer, Aaron Ashby, Sean Covey, Judy Yauch, Shawn Moon, and Stephanie Calton, and such road-tested consultants as Dr. Nancy Moore, Dr. Jane Knight, Gary McGuey, and Lonnie Moore, as well as Dr. Craig Pace and Dr. Dean Collinwood, who conducted early research for the book. Others such as Victoria Marrott contributed significant administrative support. The rest of my office team -- Julie Gillman, Chelsea Johns, and Darla Salin -- provide constant support to all of my work. More important, well over a hundred teachers, school superintendents, principals, parents, professors, and school board members volunteered extensive input and rigorous review of the work. Their practical, tried-and-refined insights substantiate each page. My heartfelt gratitude extends to all who participated. To gain a quick overview of what this book entails, I suggest that you skim through it from front to back while looking at the pictures and reading their captions. I also recommend that you visit TheLeaderInMeBook.org online to view video clips of schools and activities spoken of in this book. As you view the various resources and traverse the pages of this book, I hope you feel my deep, personal commitment, and behind it all my firm belief in the potential of today's young people. As a grandparent, I am delighted with the possibilities this book may create for my grandchildren, their children, and eventually their children's children. I think nothing but the highest of them and want nothing short of the best for them. Likewise, as a global citizen, I feel a vested interest in the progress, well-being, and happiness of all young people. They are the society and hope of the future -- our future -- and I firmly desire that future to be in good hands. Finally, as a business executive, I want to be able to look into the eyes of today's young people and see a vibrant coming workforce, a pool of future leaders who are well prepared for the challenges that we all know lie ahead. Indeed, it is my sincerest hope that this book will somehow spread its figurative wings and soar with a reach that will truly make a difference in the lives of young people the world over -- now and for generations to come. Stephen R. Covey Provo, Utah StephenCovey.com TheLeaderInMe.org TheLeaderInMeBook.org Copyright Ã Â© 2008 by FranklinCovey Co. --This text refers to the Preloaded Digital Audio Player edition.

Amazing to be inspired by the ideas that could literally change the future for leadership worldwide. If I had the principles discussed in this book taught to me from a young age my self-confidence and self-worth would have been greatly improved over the course of of the dreaded middle school years. I look forward to seeing a school that has implemented The Leader In Me program.

Conquering Academic, and Life, Challenges is as easy as I ... 2 ... 3.The first struggle a teacher, of students who have fallen behind, will face is the learned helplessness of students who spend their energies looking "as if" they are on task, instead of actually learning.Habit 1 helps students to start at the beginning... I am in charge of me. Because each student with special needs has unique goals (and IEPs), the next logic step is to understand and be part of their educational plan. Habit 2 Begins with the End in Mind... I have a plan The next struggle is making sure that learning tasks take top priority. Habit 3 helped me teach my students to focus on work first, then play.I credit this 7 Habit plan for students as having laid the foundational skills that allow my students to gain greater than one year’s growth (and often 2 and 3 years growth) in less than one school year. If these students who have fallen so far behind are to every close the gap between their current achievement and ability levels, Leader In Me is what it takes to succeed.

This book thoroughly explains the necessary components needed to launch a Leader in Ne School.

Great book!

It was more of a documentary than an educational book. I was looking for more ideas and scientific reasons as to why the concept works.

We read this book as a staff at the local elementary school where I work. We have incorporated the ideas in this book in our school and have seen wonderful success. This book is a great resource and guide for any classroom or school.

Powerful book! Highly recommended for EVERY principal!

This book provider a wonderful guide and practical lessons on how to help unleash the potential in all kids. It gives educators the framework and reference on how to build a leadership culture while at the same time boiling their own water. Really great book!

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