

Build a Leader



Planning

- 20-30 minutes
- 3-5 students per group

Materials

Give each group a random mix (not identical):

- Cardboard -String
- Markers -Straws
- Paper plates -Tape
- Pipe cleaners -Cups
- Index cards -Recyclables
- No scissors for the first 5 minutes

Instructions

Build a physical model of a “leader.”

- Each part of the model must represent a **leadership trait or behavior** (not appearance alone).
- Examples:
 - Big ears = listening
 - Strong base = integrity
 - Flexible arms = adaptability
 - Heart = empathy
 - Eyes forward = vision
 - Groups must be able to **explain every part.**

Game Play

1. Everyone must participate in building or designing.
2. The structure must stand on its own.
3. You cannot remove pieces once attached (optional challenge).

4. You have **15 minutes** to build.
5. Each group will then present answering these questions:
 - a. What kind of leader they built
 - b. What each part represents
 - c. Which trait do they think is most important

Variations

- **Assigned Leadership Focus**

Assign each group a theme: Servant Leader, Team Leader, Community Leader, Quiet Leader, Crisis Leader

- **Silent Build (First 3 Minutes)**

No talking allowed — highlights non-verbal leadership.

- **Mid-Build Shift**

Halfway through, announce: “Your leader now needs to lead through change or conflict.” Groups must adapt their design.

Debrief

- Which traits showed up in *every* group?
- Which traits were debated the most?
- Did your group value visible leadership or behind-the-scenes traits?
- How did your group decide which ideas to use?
- Which trait do you personally want to grow?

