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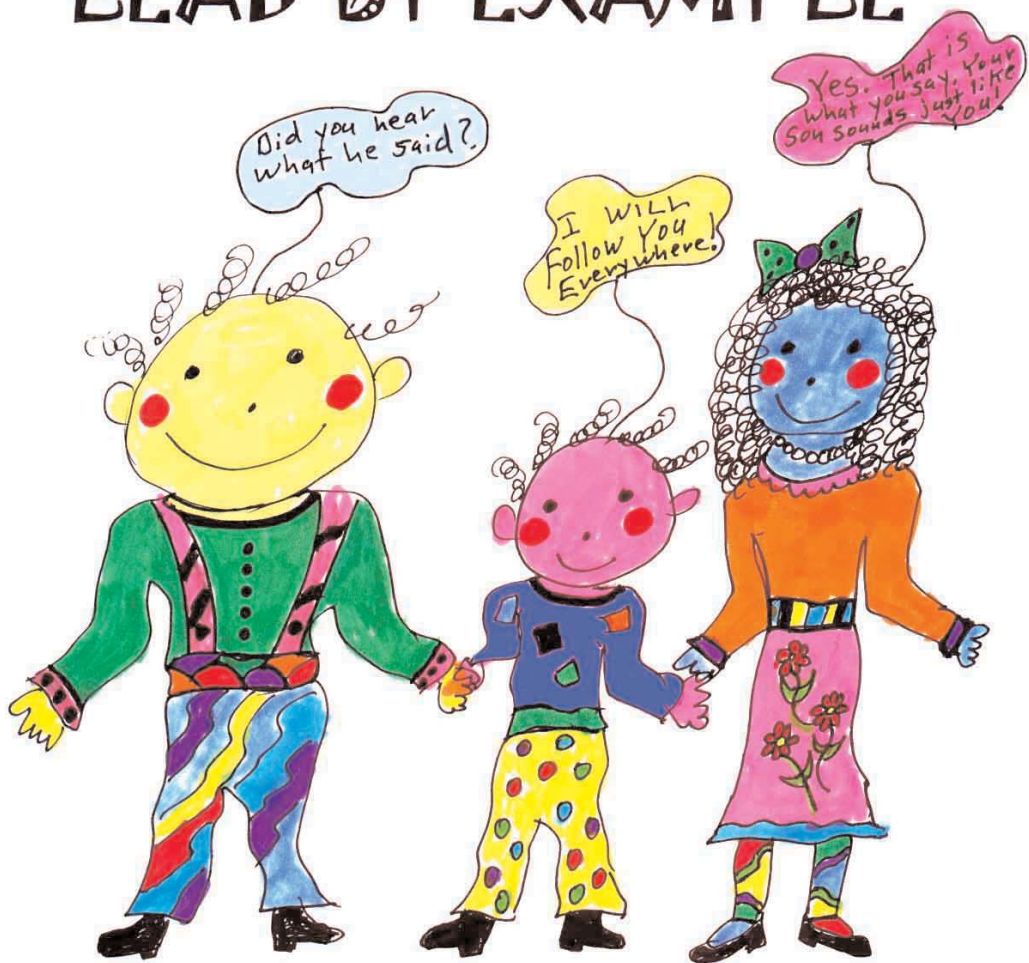
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# LEAD BY EXAMPLE



(A handbook for parents & teachers)

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# *Lead by Example*

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# Chapter One

## THE BIG PICTURE

As I look into the mirror I see,  
A reflection that simply looks like me.  
    A face. In space.  
    A dot. A tiny spot  
In the big picture  
Of life.  
A piece of the massive puzzle whole.  
And yet, a very distinctive role.  
I matter. The truth is I really do.  
And the same is true of you.  
For if each of us were not in The Big Picture,  
It would cease to be.

*m. bricker*

### Man's Part In The Big Picture

As a teacher, principal, parent, or simply an inhabitant of this planet, there is an opportunity to make a difference. What role does each person play in The Big Picture? Do we even have the slightest clue *HOW MUCH EACH PERSON MATTERS?* Everyone has a distinctive role in this very real life drama. While people ultimately desire to live in a peaceful, abundant, joy filled world, most of us do not realize our direct role in creating that world.

In the simple tasks of daily life we interact continuously and consistently with other people. Being interdependent,

functioning at times alone and at times with people, is the way man functions in this universe. This interaction affects children, workplaces, communities, states, countries, and ultimately the world. As educators, which automatically include parents, we have the opportunity to affect the lives of many children and adults daily.

As an example, look at the high school teacher. If this teacher instructs five classes a day, and perhaps, coaches or leads a choir, imagine how many people this teacher will influence daily! Think of the circle of influence a principal has on the teachers and students in his or her school daily. As a parent, how many children, other parents, neighbors, relatives, or people at work is one able to influence in a given day? Then, how many people are affected by the people they have affected, in a single day? What each person in our world does and says is critical! Each person has a starring role on this real life stage.

As I thought about the importance of every educator, parent, and individual, a picture presented itself. What if each person on the planet represented one piece of a huge jigsaw puzzle? Can you even fathom a puzzle comprised of millions of pieces? This giant puzzle has been put together to form a large world landscape. It is a beautiful sight. Each piece is unique and different. Then something happens.

Each person represented by a puzzle piece, decides he or she no longer wants to be part of this puzzle that creates the whole. His or her individual piece is removed. Eventually, this vast puzzle that fit perfectly together, piece by piece, is gone. The entire puzzle vanishes; one piece at a time. The individual pieces still exist but

separately; yet, this Big Picture has now disappeared. Just simply removing one piece at a time eventually destroys the whole puzzle; the entire big picture. Even if only one piece had been removed, a hole would exist!

What is the point of this analogy? The point is that each individual is presented with a great opportunity to take an active, vital role in “re-creating” this world. This only occurs when each individual “re-arranges” his or her own unique internal landscape.

## Re-Arranging The World

Re-arranging the world in which we live can be compared to painting a picture. Initially, there needs to be an idea of what the completed project will look like. What medium will be used, colors, sizes, or shapes? Then the creation begins.

The same principles apply to re-arranging our world. The most critical question is: How do we want our world to look and feel? Other specific questions to include:

- What do we want our own personal relationships and community to look like?
- How will the children develop from these relationships and communities?
- As adults, will they be self-sufficient contributors to our society?
- Are educators and parents providing excellent leadership for the new generation?
- Are we creating an example that will lead to non-violent problem solving?