

Parents must be the leaders

To the Editor:

Who is in charge? The responsibility for the social and emotional development of children should be shared by the parents, the school and the community with the biggest factors in the equation being the parents and family.

The reasoning sounds traditional, but unfortunately, the leadership role is being usurped by the younger members of the family. Parents in many cases are negligent in assuming this important role because of not being knowledgeable, too busy, or assume that everything will be OK. It is not a case of "not caring."

Parents cannot relinquish their responsibility as guide and decision maker. There are decisions because of their crucial nature, that only parents should make. There are other decisions that require input which parents and

kids should be co-thinkers and be made jointly. There are other decisions of strictly juvenile nature that could be left to the young person only. These decisions parents should have knowledge of but be passive.

In our present world millions of decent children are misdirected and manipulated by the negatives in our society such as some undesirable peer groups, negatives in the media, the competition of different cultural values and the complexities of family relationships. Learning to do the right thing is fragmented by some of these influences.

In order for kids to grow up to be positive members of our society, parents should be an active force in the leading, teaching and supporting process of their children's development.

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