

Parent Leadership Roles (a continuum)

Sheriff	Boss	Guide	Consultant	Friend	Servant
<p>Howdy, buckaroos. I'm the sheriff in my town, and I'm responsible for your safety. And so, I make the laws in my town. And I enforce the laws here. And I arrest people who break the laws.</p> <p>Then I prosecute the law breakers, cuz I'm also the district attorney. And I happen to also be the jury, who passes judgement of guilt or innocence after my fair and impartial trial.</p> <p>I am also the judge, who will impose a no-nonsense penalty on the convicted, and turn them over to the jail keeper, who happens to be me. And I see to it that all sentences are served in full, with no early parole.</p> <p>If you don't like the way things are run in my town, I'd advise y'all to hit the trail for Santa Fe.</p>	<p>Welcome aboard, Mr or Ms, I'm delighted to have you as part of our company.</p> <p>As we have previously agreed, you have certain responsibilities here, which I will assign, change, and add to as I see fit.</p> <p>I will supervise your fulfillment of those responsibilities, your work attitude and work ethic, as well as your interactions with co-workers & customers.</p> <p>I will give you a periodic evaluation and impose rewards and punishments as I see fit.</p> <p>In return you can expect to receive a fair wage consisting of room & board, and any other perks I might think you deserve. So, again, welcome aboard!</p>	<p>Welcome everybody, to our exciting adventure. I am your guide, and I'll be showing you the way and keeping you safe on this somewhat risky journey.</p> <p>I know the territory, as I have traveled these paths for many years. So you can put your complete trust in me.</p> <p>I recommend that you not stray far from the path because there are some serious dangers out there. Rely on my wisdom to guide you, and I'll keep you on the straight and narrow when the going gets tough. Okay?</p> <p>If I should happen to give orders, <i>I expect you to follow them</i>, because I only do that when it's absolutely necessary for your own good.</p> <p>I'm here to help you enjoy your journey, give my advice and answer any questions you might have.</p>	<p>Hello. I'm very pleased to have been hired as your consultant on this important aspect of your life.</p> <p>I realize that it will take some time for us to get know each other, and especially for me to get to know you, your strengths, your vision for the future, your goals and plans for achieving them.</p> <p>I have some familiarity with the processes of healthy interaction between people in the interest of achieving common goals, and I will be happy to share my insights and opinions with you <i>if you want them</i>.</p> <p>I would like to be free to ask you questions so I can better understand you, where you're coming from, where you're going, and how you want to get there. That way I can better offer my help, if and when you want it.</p>	<p>Hey. What's up, dude? Have you recovered okay from the last butt-kicking you got from your other parent? I didn't think that was fair, myself, but I couldn't do anything about it, you know what I'm saying?</p> <p>Like, sometimes s/he just goes off on me too, you know? It's just so gay!</p> <p>But, hey, that's not something you have to worry about. S/he doesn't know what end is up, and besides, you still got me.</p> <p>So let's go to the mall or something. I saw some real cute jeans that would look good on you and I'll spring for 'em if you want.</p> <p>Don't forget—you can always lean on me cuz that's what friends are for, right? And I know you'll be there for me too.</p>	<p>Well dear, I really want you to be able to do what you want, so I'll do your chores for you this time. Don't tell your other parent, cuz s/he doesn't like it. But I know how much it means to you.</p> <p>Oh, no you don't have to worry about picking up your room, either. I got your back on that one.</p> <p>I feel so guilty about how you were treated when you were young that I just can't hardly live with myself. But I'm going to make it up to you if it kills me. So try not to hold it against me or be upset about <i>anything</i>, Okay?</p> <p>Oh yeah, you were right. I forgot to give you that extra \$10 I promised. I'll run down to the bank first thing in the morning and cash a check so you can have it before you leave tomorrow, okay?</p>