



Session 20: Lollipop Moments

TIME NEEDED

- 30 minutes

ASSET CATEGORIES

- Positive Identity
- Support
- Social Competencies
- Positive Values

RISK/PROTECTIVE FACTORS

- Bonding and attachment to school
- Increase in social skills

MATERIALS NEEDED

- *Everyday Leadership* TED Talk (6 minutes) by Drew Dudley found at www.ted.com/talks
- Computer, LCD projector, and screen to show the video
- Lollipops (minimum of one per participant)
- Blank paper (minimum of one sheet per participant)
- Pens or pencils (one per participant)
- Blank envelopes (minimum of one per participant)
- Postage stamps, if needed

Preparation instructions are on the next page.

Purpose

- To help participants recognize that simple interactions can impact others
- To demonstrate to participants that relationships are built one interaction at a time

Video Summary

Everyday Leadership

Drew Dudley

Drew Dudley opens his talk by asking how many people comfortably call themselves “leaders”—very few people raise their hands. Dudley believes we have mistakenly made leadership about “changing the world.” In the process, we have devalued the moments when we or others act as leaders doing everyday things.

To illustrate, he tells a story from his last day at college. A young woman approached him to thank him for being “an incredibly important person in her life.” They had encountered each other on her first day at college four years earlier, even though they hadn’t spoken since.

She was standing in the registration line with her parents, and she was scared about starting college. Drew was giving away lollipops to promote a charity event. He handed one to a guy standing next to her, telling him, “You need to give a lollipop to the woman next to you.” Everyone around them laughed, and in that moment she decided not to quit but to go ahead with college. She also told Drew that she went on to date the guy who gave her the lollipop. (They eventually married.)

Drew Dudley didn’t remember meeting her that first day. Most of us, he says, have had a “lollipop moment” where someone affects us profoundly and the person does not even know it. By redefining leadership to mean “lollipop moments”—positively impacting one person’s experience

at a time—he believes we have the power to change the world. The website provides the six-minute video and a full transcript of the talk.

Instructions

1. Show participants the *Everyday Leadership* TED Talk by Drew Dudley. The talk is about six minutes in length.
2. As a group, discuss the TED Talk using the following questions:
 - **What part of the video resonated with you?**
 - **Have you had an interaction with someone that made a difference for you?**
3. Think of a person who has been your “lollipop moment” or, in other words, a person who has greatly affected you and likely doesn’t know it.
4. Hand out the blank paper, a pen, a lollipop, and an envelope to each participant. Have participants write a letter to a person who has made an impact on their lives, who has given them a “lollipop moment.” Stress the point that this person will likely not realize the impact they have had on the participant. Encourage participants to think of someone at school, if they can, but let them write a letter to someone outside of school, if they strongly prefer to.
5. Explain that, along with a lollipop, you will hand-deliver the letters to the people within your school community and mail the letters to people outside your school community. Have participants help locate addresses, if needed.

Optional Follow-Up

Bring lollipops during the year to remind participants of “lollipop moments.”

Grades 6–8 Adaptations

No adaptations are needed.

PREPARATION NEEDED

- Gather the materials needed.
- Find and watch the *Everyday Leadership* TED Talk by Drew Dudley found at www.ted.com/talks. You can search for the talk by using the title or the speaker’s name.
- Set up the computer, LCD projector, and screen to be able to show the video to the group.