



## *Bicycles and Leadership*

Educator Gordon A. Donaldson Jr. says leadership is like riding a bicycle, they involve coordinating mind, body and heart. If parents learned how to ride a bicycle when they are children, they learn basic leadership skills. When typical 7 year olds learn how to ride a bike, they must hold the handlebars, sit on the seat, pedal and steer. A leader must do the same, but there's more to it. When a child learns how to ride a bike, it involves balancing, calming fears of crashing and having the courage to push off for the first time. When parents are leaders in the home and community, they must plan, prepare, discuss and create strategies for unexpected events. When your 7 year old learns how to ride a bike, he/she doesn't know what's going to happen until it happens. Parents must take the first steps towards leadership. If a parent wants to assume the leadership role in a parent support group, that parent needs to grab those handlebars, sit on the bicycle seat and start pedaling. The same goes for that 7 year old learning how to ride a bike. That child must grab the handlebars, sit on the seat and start pedaling. They might crash after 10 feet, but to overcome the fear, they sit right back on that bike and pedal. Parents might stumble while leading, but that parent will get up, sit in the leader chair and start pedaling again. Let's encourage our children to ride their bicycles and become leaders.