

JOYFUL CHILD JOURNAL

For Families and Educators and Anyone Who Loves Children

Book Review

*Our Children are
Watching:
10 Skills for Leading the
Next Generation to Success*

Author, Susan Collins



This is a powerful and inspiring book about success, leadership and personal fulfillment. We all want to be successful whether at parenting, in relationships or in the workplace. We are all in a leadership position to empower and encourage others whether at home or through our careers.

Susan Collins gives an overview of how we grow into effective leadership—as a person, as a parent and as a manager in the workplace. Collins states this growth process takes place through three phases. In the first phase we succeed by following a leader, doing what we're told to do obediently and loyally. In the second phase we succeed by outperforming peers, doing more and more, better and faster, struggling to improve grades, scores and graphs. In the third phase we move beyond our past, beyond the rules

and limits learned along the way, finally discovering our own power to create what we want.

Collins outlines 10 skills (one chapter for each skill) necessary for success. The ten skills include shifting gears when change is needed, using experts to help us get what we want, communicating and protecting our dreams, letting go of limiting doubts and fears, switching back to a positive focus during a negative experience, and maintaining a healthy support system to name a few. This is such a hopeful book!

Why do we need to understand leadership dynamics? Collins says: "The ten skills for succeeding are not only essential for our own success, but for the success of our children, and the children of our children. How far our children go depends on us." Will they live with conformity and obedience, with stress and competition? Or will they, with the example of our leadership, learn the magic of cooperation and teamwork, and thereby help to create a planet that works for each one of its citizens?

Susan Collins is a consultant to major corporations and a motivational speaker. A success and leadership researcher, she is also a mother and grandmother.