

Be a Good Follower

Everyone who reads this *Perspective* today is a leader in our company. No matter what your discipline may be, you occupy a strategic position within Life Care Centers of America, and there are people who turn to you for the skills you display and the influence you exert.

But each one who looks at this article is also a follower. We all fit into that category, for every person is – or should be – on a daily quest to learn more about our jobs, about each other (particularly those with whom we work), and about life in general. The information, examples or inspiration we seek can be derived from associates or from residents. It may even come from someone outside our sphere of daily living. I like what John C. Maxwell, one of my favorite authors, has to say on this subject. When you find someone who can personally mentor you, he said, use these guidelines to help develop a positive learning relationship with that individual:

- Ask the right questions. Give thought to the questions you will ask before your time with your mentor. Make the questions strategic for your growth.
- Don't let ego get in the way of learning.
- Respect the mentor, but don't idolize him or her. Making the mentor an idol removes our critical faculty for adapting a mentor's knowledge and experience to ourselves.
- Put into effect immediately what you are learning.
- Be disciplined in relating to the mentor. Arrange for ample time, select the subject matter in advance, and do your homework to make sessions profitable.
- Don't threaten to give up. Let your mentor know that you have made a decision for progress, so he or she will know time is not being wasted.

These are good recommendations – for your personal or professional life.

--Beecher Hunter