

Persuasive Letter on Peer Pressure

Dear Editor:

Your article last week on kids and peer pressure was interesting, but not accurate. Your article seems to state that peer pressure is what harms kids, but I disagree. I don't think it's peer pressure that hurts kids. Peer pressure can help kids. I think it's a lack of leadership that hurts kids. Kids need their peers. They need their peers to be leaders.

Kids need their peers to be leaders because it's our peers we listen to most. You might not believe it, but it's true. Kids are most interested in other kids. Not adults. It's not that we don't care about adults, it's just that kids care more about other people their age. Think about it. What group do you think most about? Most likely, it's people your own age. For example, one day our teacher was trying to explain a really hard math problem, and a lot of us couldn't get it. But then one kid in the class got it really well and she was able to explain it to the rest of the class in a way that we understood. We are already paying attention to other kids most. Kids can be leaders to their peers.

Kids need their peers to be leaders because we are not only role models to each other, we are also role models to kids who are younger than us. Think about it: where do kids get bad peer pressure from, thin air? No! Kids learn bad peer pressure from other kids. Older kids. Sometimes from grown-ups. It's hardly fair to blame kids for peer pressure. Just like older kids and grown-ups are role models for us, we are role models for younger kids. We need leadership skills to be able to show the kids younger than us what good peer pressure looks like.

Most of all, kids need their peers to be leaders because we need to practice leadership. Grown-ups are always telling us that we need to be independent and we need to be leaders, but then they sometimes don't give us the chance to practice being leaders. We always have to follow directions, be quiet in class, walk in straight lines. Where is the leadership in that? No wonder kids follow bad peer pressure because no one has had the chance to practice good peer pressure: leadership!