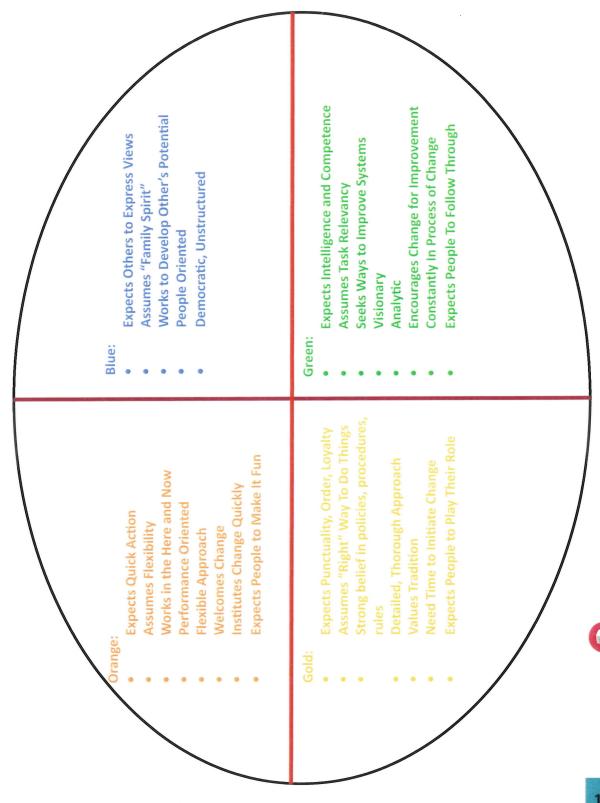
# **True Colors**

# Leadership Styles Wheel



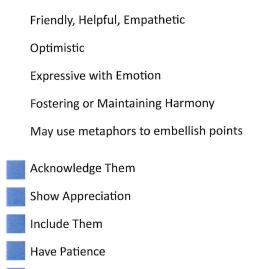
College of Education

Family Development Program: A Center for Excellence for Early Learning

# **True Colors Communication Tips**

### Communicating With BLUES

A Blue's world revolves around people, relationships, and fostering growth in themselves and others. When speaking, they first focus their attention on establishing a relationship or reconnecting with the person. The information they wish to convey is woven into this relationship-building endeavor.



### Communicating With GOLDS

Don't "Bark" Orders

Golds are generally respectful and responsible. They listen for details so they know what their part is. They usually size up a situation for what would be most appropriate before responding.

Purposeful, Plans Ahead

Respectful, Appropriate

Supportive of Policies and Rules

Detail Oriented, Chronological

Loyal, Devoted

- Be Prepared, Give Details
- Stay on Target, Be Consistent
- Show Respect
- Don't Interrupt
- Recognize Their Contributions



### **Communicating With GREENS**

Greens for the most part, communicate for the purpose of gaining or sharing information. During a conversation, their attention is usually focused on the matter at hand, not on the relationship.

Logical and Objective

**Includes Facts and Information** 

Big Picture, Conceptual

Questioning, Critiquing

Wry Sense of Humor

- Allow Them Time to Ponder
- Skip the "Small Talk"
- Avoid Redundancy
- Give Big Picture or Point first, then fill in details if asked
- Don't misinterpret their need for info as interrogation

### **Communicating With ORANGES**

Generally, Oranges want to share their opinion the minute it hits their mind. Interested in taking action and being expedient, they may skip the softeners and go straight for the "punch-line".

Casual, Playful

Spontaneous, Now Oriented

Fast-Paced, Changes Subjects Quickly

Straightforward

Active, Involved, Mobile

- Use "Sound Bites"
- Move with Them While They Multi-task
- Appreciate Their Flair
- Allow Options and Flexibility
- Lighten Up



## TIPS ON HOW TO COMMUNICATE WHEN WORKING TOGETHER

(True Colors)

### Blue

- Clearly outline your expectations for performance in a friendly, but frank way.
   Recognize their contribution often.
- Identify rewards for achievement individually and in teams. This builds cooperation and excitement.
- Couch comments in feelings terms. "I value your uniqueness and your contribution. You are important to me as a person, and I care about how you feel."
- Provide personal contact through pats on the back or a light touch of approval.
- Recognize their creativity and the depth of feeling they put into their work.

### **Praise Their:**

Unique contributions
Personal achievements
Personal characteristics that
are valued and meaningful
Honesty and sincerity
Energetic and enthusiastic
manner

Contributions to the performance of the group and the organization

### They Dislike:

- Insincerity
- Hypocrisy
- Deception

### **ORANGE**

- Outcome based short-term goals will be most effective.
- Focus on behavior and performance more than the finished products.
- Reward by freeing them to act on their own initiative.
- Tangible rewards and competitive situations create stronger incentives.
- Set high expectations, which challenge their skills causing them to know they have really earned the recognition received.
- Clearly identify the impact their performance has on the organization.

### **Praise Their:**

Cleverness
Skill
Quickness
Spontaneity
Versatility
Quick and timely responses
Creativity
Motivational skills

### They Dislike:

- Rigidness
- Authority
- Rules

### **GOLD**

- Clearly established expectations, short and long-term goals, and plans for achieving them.
- Give specific measures of their performance and achievement.
- Tangible rewards have the greatest appeal.
- Provide clear, specific feedback regarding the work accomplished and its contribution to the organization.
- Traditions, rituals and ceremonies are meaningful. When pre-planned, they provide incentives for performance.
- Hierarchical structure and clearly defined roles aid Gold performance.

### **Praise Their:**

Accomplishments
Thoroughness and sense of responsibility
Provide a "pat on the back" regularly and consistently
Contributions to the growth and development of the organization and its performance traditions

### **GREEN**

- Clear expectations and project outcomes with the latitude to figure out how to accomplish them works well.
- Provide sincere recognition only when warranted. This color group does not appreciate "hoopla".
- Assign tasks requiring designing new models or think up new approaches.
- Compliments relating to his/her intelligence are the greatest source of esteem.
- Reinforce through the contributions their knowledge provides for completing projects.

### **Praise Their:**

Competence
Quality of work
Language capabilities
Independent initiative
Ingenuity
Analysis abilities
Clear, logical explanations
in precise terms
Good ideas and capabilities

- Non-conformity
- Ambiguity

They Dislike:

Waste

### They Dislike:

- Incompetence
- Unfairness
- Injustice

