

JESPER JUUL: BE A LEAD WOLF – AUTHENTIC LEADERSHIP IN EDUCATION (SUMMARY)

Jesper Juul describes in his work “Be a Lead Wolf” the leadership role as a deeply personal, relationship-oriented task.

In doing so, he rejects authoritarian, hierarchical leadership styles and advocates leadership based on authenticity, personal integrity, and responsibility.

The term “lead wolf” for him is not an expression of dominance, but of orientation, clarity, and attentiveness. Good leadership is not based on obedience, but on relationship.

CENTRAL ATTITUDES OF A “LEAD WOLF”

A “lead wolf” in educational contexts...

- is present and approachable without interfering in everything
- takes responsibility without disempowering others
- trusts the process, even if results are not immediately visible
- stands by themselves, even when receiving criticism
- provides orientation, not through pressure, but through stance

Leadership is therefore not a role behavior, but an inner stance that has an effect – through language, body language, decisions, and actions.

LEADING WITH INTEGRITY AND RELATIONSHIP

Juul emphasizes that true leadership only succeeds where self-respect, responsibility, and equal dignity are practiced. This means:

- I lead not to control – but to accompany.
- I speak plainly – but in an appreciative manner.
- I create space for development, not for fear.
- I acknowledge my imperfection and learn with the team.

This way of leading is demanding because it is based on self-reflection – not on rules. But it is effective because it enables relationship.

RELEVANCE FOR EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Juul's approach is particularly relevant for school leadership, kindergarten leadership, and educational leadership because he:

- understands relationship as the foundation of authority,
- defines responsibility as personal maturity,
- describes leadership as development – not as status.

Those who lead with stance do not need to know or solve everything – but must act clearly, authentically, and with a willingness to learn.

"A LEAD WOLF IS NOT PERFECT – BUT THEY ARE VISIBLE, HONEST, AND RESPONSIBLE" – Jesper Juul