



Top 10 Tips for MumNet leaders

1. **Have an organizational system.** Book all your MumNet meetings into your calendar ahead. Sort out with your co-leader which jobs you are each responsible for. Make a plan for how you will do your weekly program planning. Time spent on all of this at the front end will make the year run smoothly.
2. **Less is more.** Aim for Quality not Quantity in programming and all your other MumNet 'stuff'. Often the simplest programs that are designed around a few key questions on a relevant topic will generate the best group experience. You do not need to whack yourself out each week designing an elaborate program, only to be disappointed when you run out of time or it doesn't take off the way you had hoped.
3. **Expect some curve balls with programming.** Programs do not always run as we imagined, people do not always respond the way we might expect. So, be flexible and be ready to alter things as needed. For example sometimes a really good warm-up may become the program for that day. This is wonderful, simply save your main body for another week and go to the closing.
4. **Have a back-up program ready and available,** in case your guest speaker backs out last minute or doesn't show up for some reason. And in case the program you have planned just doesn't seem to work for reasons you could not have anticipated.
5. **Ask for and seek out help, support, and advice.** Area coordinators and the other leaders are there for you. You and your co-leader do not have to feel you are all alone! Please call your area coordinator/s right away if you are feeling unsure or stuck with something. That is why we have the support system of area coordinators! If the area coordinator is not sure it is her job to find out and get back to you!
6. **Delegate, delegate, delegate!** Enlist the involvement of your admin. team and group members as soon as possible. Set the tone right away that you and your co-leader will not do it all! If someone inquires about something or has a suggestion for improvement ask them if they would like to set it up or run with it. This is the surefire cure for potential burn-out. It may mean more time at the top end but it's worth it in the end.
7. **Address any common concerns/issues or questions with the whole group ASAP.** It can be tempting to avoid these situations, however dealing with it openly, clearly, respectfully, and timely after you and your co-leader have discussed it is important to the healthy growth and development of your group.
8. **In case you missed it before...don't be afraid to ask for help.** If you and your co-leader are not sure how to handle it or do not agree on what to do, seek out advice from your area coordinator. You will probably discover that this is not the first time this issue has come up.
9. **Be creative and use your imagination!** Once you have got your feet wet don't be afraid to try something new and have fun with it! This is how you and your group will grow and evolve.
10. **Remember to have fun and enjoy yourself.** This program is for you too! Good luck and have fun!