

Arco Iris Leader's Guide.

1. **Make sure you know all the parts of the piece you wish to lead before leading it.**
A good way to learn this is by playing all of the instruments in that piece at least once beforehand. Be careful about teaching parts you're not sure of.
2. **Announce the name of the piece** you wish to lead before you start.
3. **Be aware of the tempo** you set when you start a piece. Too fast can equal too messy.
4. **Step in time** – The LEADER steps to the LEFT and the BAND steps to the RIGHT on the ONE.
5. **Think in sets of four bars** – place one-bar breaks in the fourth bar of a four bar cycle by calling them on the third bar (e.g the fag break in whatever, the pineapple break in London School).
6. **Show the pulse physically.**
7. **Make eye contact** with everyone in the band if possible.
8. **Be really clear** – hold your hands as high as possible and keep them still.
If you're dancing and jumping around, it's hard for people to see what you're telling them, especially new players!
Signal as clearly as possible and from different angles so all members of the band can see.
9. When you whistle, **keep your hands in the air** with the signal until the change is over.
10. **Be aware of the band line-up** and the general experience of each section. Beginners won't be able to do complicated things and will also feel self-conscious about solo-ing.
11. **Think about the combination of instruments** you are introducing and whether it'll work.
Try to have something continuing that has the pulse in the pattern.
12. **Keep smiling** even if something goes wrong – Don't frown or make people feel bad.
13. **Be aware to not go on and on with a piece.** Break it down once or twice, bring the piece to a natural crescendo and then stop. Leave the audience wanting more! Between 5 and 7 minutes is perfect.
14. **Be adaptable and don't have a fixed plan.** It sometimes won't pan-out the way you imagined it. Have a contingency plan and if all else fails and everything starts to fall apart, **CALL A BREAK.**
15. **Be a leader, but don't pretend you're the only one in control.**
16. **Ask other leaders and band members their opinions on how they felt you lead and be open to their feedback.**
17. Tell a new leader this document exists.