

## Community Level Challenge

Like many Latino families, mine is a massive one. My grandparents' home was a grand central terminal of sorts. Ever-welcoming aunts, neighbors, cousins, comadres, and compadres. Sunday cookouts were and still are a time to come together, dance, watch a Sunday soccer match, and eat! And wow! The amount of food made was a sight to behold! Most food was prepped on Saturdays. All seasoned and simmered to perfection by family members. Everyone had a role. My tia is in charge of desserts. Always. Dad is in charge of all things grilling. Definitive! Cousins contribute their own unique dishes. To name a few. Anyone who didn't have something to do would be assigned a role by my grandmother. I often thought she did this randomly. And undoubtedly, she sometimes did. But looking back, before assigning someone to a specific role, she really did take our strengths, interests, ages, and skills into consideration. Indeed, in doing so, she was engineering. And oh! Being the daughter of an engineer, would she have loved knowing that!

I now find myself in her position. I am in charge of my children's school culture night. Each year, I am tasked with cooking copious amounts of food for ravenous teenagers, their families, and staff. Thankfully, I have a volunteer team. Assigning each of them a role is necessary to keep our food tent running efficiently. Much like the layers in a helmet. I know, what does a helmet have to do with any of this? Recently, I visited the exhibit *Creatividad silvestre/Wild Creativity* with my kids. We had a go at the helmet design challenge first. In which we stacked layers of foam to simulate the layers in a helmet. Did you know that helmets usually have three layers? A hard outer, a middle impact-absorbing layer, and a comfort liner on the inside. Each layer is essential to the overall success of the design. And crucial to keeping the wearer safe. That is to say, each layer plays an important role.

As parents, we are no strangers to assigning roles, putting this engineering practice to good use! Especially, for example, when tasking our kids with chores. I know my daughter is careful with my beloved tableware, so she's on dish duty. My boy is orderly, and so he's in charge of tidying up. You see, when assigning roles, it is useful to consider what individuals have to offer. What are their skills? What experience do they have that can be beneficial to achieving goals and getting jobs (whatever they may be) done efficiently?

Each person plays a fundamental role on Culture Night. Assigning Jesus as our lead cook is a good idea since he was head chef at a restaurant, and Linda, with her warm and welcoming disposition, is fully bilingual. So assigning her the greeter role will ensure that all feel included and welcome. It is important.

that others feel comfortable in the roles you assign them to. Being open to having conversations to distinguish each person's level of comfort in that role is worth taking time for. Overall, assigning roles can sound overwhelming when you're the one tasked with doing it. But in doing so, you are creating a collaborative effort and a supportive structure. Roles can mitigate the challenge of whatever job you have ahead. It really is a valuable tool!

**TRANSLATED**

Like many Latino families, mine is a massive one. My grandparents' home was a grand central terminal of sorts. Ever-welcoming aunts, neighbors, cousins, comadres, and compadres. Sunday cookouts were and still are a time to come together, dance, watch a Sunday soccer match, and eat! And wow! The amount of food made was a sight to behold! Most food was prepped on Saturdays. All seasoned and simmered to perfection by family members. Everyone had a role. My tia is in charge of desserts. Always. Dad is in charge of all things grilling. Definitive! Cousins contribute their own unique dishes. To name a few. Anyone who didn't have something to do would be assigned a role by my grandmother. I often thought she did this randomly. And undoubtedly, she sometimes did. But looking back, before assigning someone to a specific role, she really did take our strengths, interests, ages, and skills into consideration. Indeed, in doing so, she was engineering. And oh! Being the daughter of an engineer, would she have loved knowing that!

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Como muchas familias latinas, la mía es masiva. La casa de mis abuelos era como un gran terminal central. Tías, vecinos, primos, comadres y compadres siempre bienvenidos. Las comidas al aire libre de los domingos eran y siguen siendo un momento para reunirse, bailar, ver un partido de fútbol dominguero y ¡comer! Y ¡vaya! La cantidad de comida que se hacía era un espectáculo. La mayoría de la comida se preparaba los sábados. Los miembros de la familia la sazaban y cocinaban a fuego lento hasta alcanzar la perfección. Cada uno tenía su rol. Mi tía se encarga de los postres. Siempre. Papá está a cargo de todas las cosas a la parrilla. ¡Definitivo! Mis primos y primas contribuyen con sus propios platos. Solo por nombrar algunos. A cualquiera que no tuviera algo que hacer, mi abuela le asignaba un rol. A menudo pensaba que lo hacía al azar. Y, sin duda, a veces sí lo hacía. Pero viéndolo en retrospectiva, antes de asignar a alguien un rol específico, ella realmente tenía en cuenta nuestras fuerzas, intereses, edades y habilidades. De hecho, al hacerlo, ejercía de ingeniería. Y, siendo hija de un ingeniero, ¡le habría encantado saberlo!

Ahora me encuentro en su lugar. Estoy a cargo de la noche cultural de la escuela de mis hijos. Cada año, tengo la tarea de cocinar copiosas cantidades de comida para adolescentes hambrientos, sus familias y el personal. Por suerte, cuento con un equipo de voluntarios. Es necesario asignar a cada

necessary to keep our food tent running efficiently. Much like the layers in a helmet. I know, what does a helmet have to do with any of this? Recently, I visited the exhibit Creatividad silvestre/Wild Creativity with my kids. We had a go at the helmet design challenge first. In which we stacked layers of foam to simulate the layers in a helmet. Did you know that helmets usually have three layers? A hard outer, a middle impact-absorbing layer, and a comfort liner on the inside. Each layer is essential to the overall success of the design. And crucial to keeping the wearer safe. That is to say, each layer plays an important role.

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uno de ellos una función para que nuestra carpa de comida funcione con eficiencia. Como las capas de un casco. Lo sé, ¿qué tiene que ver un casco con todo esto? Hace poco visité con mis hijos la exhibición Creatividad silvestre/Wild Creativity. Lo primero que hicimos fue probar a diseñar un casco. En él apilamos capas de goma espuma para simular las capas de un casco. ¿Sabías que los cascos suelen tener tres capas? Una exterior dura, una del medio que absorbe los impactos y otra interior que aporta comodidad. Cada capa es esencial para el éxito general del diseño. Y crucial para mantener seguro a quien lo lleve. Es decir, cada capa desempeña un rol importante.

Como padres, no nos resulta extraño asignar roles, ¡y hacer un buen uso de esta práctica de la ingeniería! Especialmente, por ejemplo, cuando asignamos tareas a nuestros hijos. Yo sé que mi hija es cuidadosa con mi querida vajilla, así que a ella le toca lavar los trastes. Mi hijo es ordenado, así que él se encarga de ordenar. Como ves, a la hora de asignar roles, conviene tener en cuenta lo que cada uno puede ofrecer. ¿Cuáles son sus habilidades? ¿Qué experiencia tienen que pueda ser beneficiosa para alcanzar los objetivos y realizar los trabajos (sean cuales sean) con eficacia?

Cada persona desempeña un rol fundamental en la Noche Cultural. Designar a Jesús como nuestro

head chef at a restaurant, and Linda, with her warm and welcoming disposition, is fully bilingual. So assigning her the greeter role will ensure that all feel included and welcome. It is important that others feel comfortable in the roles you assign them to. Being open to having conversations to distinguish each person's level of comfort in that role is worth taking time for. Overall, assigning roles can sound overwhelming when you're the one tasked with doing it. But in doing so, you are creating a collaborative effort and a supportive structure. Roles can mitigate the challenge of whatever job you have ahead. It really is a valuable tool!

cocinero principal es una buena idea, ya que ha sido jefe de cocina en un restaurante, y Linda, con su disposición cálida y acogedora, es totalmente bilingüe. Así que asignarle el papel de saludadora asegurará que todos se sientan incluidos y bienvenidos. Es importante que los demás se sientan cómodos en los roles que les asignas. Merece la pena dedicar tiempo a mantener conversaciones para distinguir el nivel de comodidad de cada persona en ese rol. En general, asignar roles puede parecer agobiante cuando eres tú el encargado de hacerlo. Pero al hacerlo, estás creando un esfuerzo de colaboración y una estructura de apoyo. Los roles pueden mitigar el reto de cualquier trabajo que tengas por delante. Es una herramienta realmente valiosa.