

Communicating about Developmental Relationships

New Insights from FrameWorks Institute

A two-part webinar series

Part 2—Digging into the Challenges

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Search Institute's Developmental Relationships Framework

Developmental relationships are the roots of success and resilience that give young people the nourishment, support, and stability they need to grow, learn, contribute, and thrive. Search Institute research has identified five elements of relationships—expressed in 20 specific actions—that give relationships their power.

It is important to remember that the nourishment flows both ways in strong relationships. Each person gives and receives. However, for the purpose of clarity, the actions in the Developmental Relationships Framework are expressed from the perspective of one person in the relationship. Imagine each person saying it.

Elements	Actions	Definitions
 Express Care <i>"Show me that I matter to you."</i>	Be dependable Listen Believe in me Be warm Encourage	Be someone I can trust. Really pay attention when we are together. Make me feel known and valued. Show me you enjoy being with me. Praise me for my efforts and achievements.
 Challenge Growth <i>"Push me to keep getting better."</i>	Expect my best Stretch Hold me accountable Reflect on failures	Expect me to live up to my potential. Push me to go further. Insist I take responsibility for my actions. Help me learn from mistakes and setbacks.
 Provide Support <i>"Help me complete tasks and achieve goals."</i>	Navigate Empower Advocate Set boundaries	Guide me through hard situations and systems. Build my confidence to take charge of my life. Stand up for me when I need it. Put in place limits that keep me on track.
 Share Power <i>"Treat me with respect and give me a say."</i>	Respect me Include me Collaborate Let me lead	Take me seriously and treat me fairly. Involve me in decisions that affect me. Work with me to solve problems and reach goals. Create opportunities for me to take action and lead.
 Expand Possibilities <i>"Connect me with people and places that broaden my world."</i>	Inspire Broaden horizons Connect	Inspire me to see possibilities for my future. Expose me to new ideas, experiences, and places. Introduce me to more people who can help me develop and thrive.

More information on developmental relationships and their power in young people's lives:
www.searchinstitute.org/developmental-relationships/

Reframing Developmental Relationships: A Communications Toolkit

<http://www.frameworksinstitute.org/toolkits/developmental-relationships/>

Toolkit Contents

Introduction

1. Learn the Strategy

Tools

- Try This . . . Not That
- Inclusive Opportunity Message Card
- Roots to Success Message Card

2. Practice the Strategy

- Talking Points
- Fundraising Letter
- Workshop Invitation

3. Share the Strategy

- Framing on Social Media
- Centering Equity in Communications
- Presentation Slides

Developmental Relationships Resources from FrameWorks

Developmental Relationships Communications Toolkit

This free online resource includes practical summaries of the FrameWorks research and recommendations. Then it provides several tools that model the recommendations, including talking points, a fundraising appeal, an e-letter mock-up, and a short slide presentation.

Reframing Developmental Relationships: A FrameWorks MessageMemo

The report outlines seven tested recommendations for communicating developmental relationships in a way that moves the public beyond preconceptions of relationships toward new, broader understandings of—and investments in—the kinds of relationships youth need to thrive.

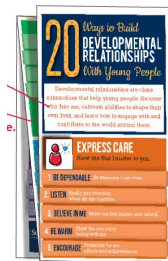
“They All Play a Role”: Mapping the Gaps between Expert and Public Understandings of Developmental Relationships

This qualitative study documents the communication challenges that emerge in the gap between researchers’ understanding of developmental relationships and the publics’ understandings of relationships in young people’s lives.

Access through: www.frameworksinstitute.org/developmental-relationships.html

Or: www.searchinstitute.org/reframing-developmental-relationships

Relationships-Building Tools and Services from Search Institute



People (mini poster)

20 Ways to Build Developmental Relationships with Young People

This bilingual poster highlights the five elements of developmental relationships and the 20 actions that support those elements. Share with educators, parents, youth workers, and others who connect with youth. www.searchinstitute.org/shop/



Relationships First: Creating Connections that Help Young People Thrive

This booklet introduces the Developmental Relationships Framework, research on the power of relationships, and strategies for becoming more intentional in relationship building. **Download for free:** www.searchinstitute.org/relationships-first.

Getting Relationships Right: A Workshop for Leaders

Bring this workshop to your team, either virtually or in person. It lays the foundation to integrate developmental relationships more intentionally and inclusively into schools and youth-serving organizations. Visit www.searchinstitute.org/professional-development



Keep Connected: Strengthening Families by Strengthening Relationships

Keep Connected offers a **seven-session workshop series** for parents and their middle schoolers. Families explore the five essential elements of parent-youth relationships through a mix of learning and sharing activities. In-person and online training institutes equip leaders to offer this resource in their organization or community. Visit: www.KeepConnected.info.

Keep Connected also features activities and conversations on a **free website** for families.

Surveys

www.searchinstitute.org/surveys

Surveys examine developmental relationships, social-emotion learning, program quality, and developmental assets. Each survey is offered online.

Workshops

www.searchinstitute.org/professional-development

Build expertise and develop strategies to put Search Institute research into practice with a range of workshops.

Other Resources

www.searchinstitute.org/shop/

Search Institute offers a variety of print resources for educators, youth workers, parents, and other leaders.

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