

Understanding and Motivating Students to Learn



Do you know a student who...

- seeks attention or is susceptible to peer pressure?
- seeks power to control others or is defiant?
- seeks revenge or hurts others?
- gives up easily or avoids tasks?

Motivate Students By Giving Them What They Need...

The Four C's

According to Dr. Amy Lew and Betty Bether of Family Institute of Cambridge there are 4 methods those interacting with staff should utilize in order to promote student motivation:

Connection—having the sense of belonging

Capability—having the ability to take care of oneself

Counting—having the knowledge that one can make a difference

Courage—believing one can handle what comes

What are you currently doing to help your students feel...

- connected?
- capable?
- as though they count?
- courageous?

A push to success



Students Need to be Connected

- Survival depends on our ability to bond.
- Through development we must move from total dependency to interdependency.
- Move from being dependent, to being someone upon whom others can depend on.
- **Students who don't connect in constructive ways feel insecure/isolated, seek attention and are more susceptible to peer pressure.**

miStAkEs

are proof
that you are

TRYING

Connections...

Students who feel connected...

- feel secure
- can reach out
- better social skills
- can cooperate

“I believe that I belong.”



The Need to Develop Competence and Feel Capable...

- The foundation of feeling competent and capable comes with the ability to take care of oneself (Our Students are Just Surviving)!!!
- **Students who don't feel capable may try to seek power, control others and/or become defiant.**



Feeling Capable...

Students who believe they are capable...

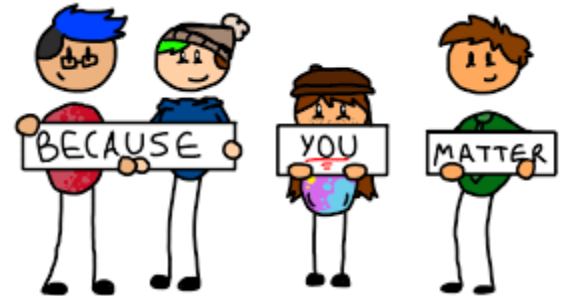
- feel competent
- have self-control and self-discipline
- assume responsibility
- are self-reliant



**“I Believe I
Can Do That.”**

The Need for Significance- The Belief That One Counts

- We want to feel we make a difference, that our existence matters.
- **People who don't believe they count through constructive means try to prove that they count through negative means. They may seek revenge and hurt others. (MISBEHAVE)**



Students Need to Know They COUNT...

Students who believe they count...

- feel valuable
- believe they can make a difference
- believe they can contribute



***“I believe that
I matter and I
can make a
difference.”***





Why Courage...

- To take risks requires courage.
- Students **without** courage **FOCUS** on what they can't do. They often give up and **AVOID**.
- Going back to high school as an **ADULT** takes **COURAGE!!!**



Students who have **COURAGE...**



“I believe that I can handle what comes.”

Students who have courage...

- overcome fear
- feel equal, confident, and hopeful
- handle challenges; are resilient
are willing to try



What might you do to help your students develop a sense of...

- *connectedness?*
- *capability?*
- *worth? (counting)*
- *courage?*





Essential Skills for Academic Success



- Students need to be able to communicate effectively in order to connect constructively.
- Students need self-discipline to become capable.
- Students need to believe that they count and make a difference if they are going to be willing to assume responsibility.
- Students need good judgment if they are going to use courage wisely and safely.

When Students Needs are Met...

- When students **succeed** in getting a need met, they gain courage for future tasks.
- **When students experience only failure, they lose some of their courage** and become timid of future tasks.



Take Action Now!!!

Students who feel

- not connected
- not capable
- they don't count
- no courage

Act out by

- ✓ seeking attention
- ✓ seeking power
- ✓ seeking revenge
- ✓ seeking avoidance



Teacher Interventions: Encourage vs. Praise?

- Do **NOT** retaliate, escalate, or humiliate !!!
- **Encouragement-** instilling courage by helping students see their strengths and developing a belief in themselves
- **Praise-** pointing out what we think he/she does well



Helping Students Feel Connected...



- Provide opportunities for **cooperative interactions**
- Show an **interest** in each student
- Give **positive** attention
- Find and recognize **strengths and talents**
- Show **acceptance**—separate the deed from the doer
- Think **Beyond** ordinary—send cards, messages, homework to absent students
- **Conduct** classroom meetings: Ask students mid-term how they are feeling, what more can you do to help them improve the remainder of the term.

Helping Students Feel Capable...

- Create learning experiences from mistakes
- Build confidence
- Ask students that struggled with the lesson for feedback that helped them to better understand.

- *What techniques did they like best?*
- *What techniques did they least like?*



Helping Students Feel Courageous

- Don't expect perfection from them
- Practice balance- Point out student strengths rather than only focusing on their weaknesses
- Don't make comparisons with others
- Ask questions of student
- Ask questions of yourself
- Allow students to experience natural consequences
- Avoid criticism
- Through participation in classroom meetings



What will you do going forward to understand and motivate your students?

How will you help them feel...

- connected?
- capable?
- as though they count?(worthy)
- courageous?



References

- **A Parent's Guide to Understanding and Motivating Children**

By: Betty Lou Bettner and Amy Lew

- **Motivating the Unmotivated Student Mini Training Series**

By: College Board Inspiring Mind Inc.



Questions & Comments

