

Ramp-Up News

October 2016

For You:

As you know, internet links such as the ones we use on YouTube and other sites sometimes fail, often for inexplicable reasons. If this happens, you can contact us and we will try to find the identical or a similar URL to replace the recommended video in the Ramp-Up curriculum. If you are short on time, however, simply paste the name of the suggested URL into a browser and often another workable avenue for accessing it will appear.

At our recent Brush-Up Workshop, several schools expressed interest in Ramp-Up curriculum that is designed for English learners. While we do not currently have curriculum that is designed solely for English learners, one idea is to use elements of the Ramp-Up Middle School curriculum for your students who are new to the language. All schools have access to both the middle and high school curriculum, so your current username and password will provide you with materials from grades 6 – 12.

For Staff:

The video of Donovan Livingston, the 2016 Harvard Graduate School commencement speaker went viral a few months ago. Mr. Livingston's words are a great reminder of why we teach and why we do the tremendously hard work of college and career readiness—*for all*. This short yet motivating and thought-provoking speech would be a great vehicle for building staff dialogue around the Ramp-Up imperative. The URL can be found at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4GMVKH_M3HQ

For Parents:

Search Institute, a Minneapolis-based organization that is dedicated to studying what kids need, has published a list of 10 ways parents can build developmental relationships that help young people succeed. According to Search, developmental relationships are close connections with adults that assist young people in developing the positive character strengths they need while maturing. The research Search has done has found that "*Expressing care, challenging growth, providing support, sharing power and expanding possibilities* are five elements that are associated with multiple character strengths, including motivation to learn and personal responsibility." According to Search, the 10 ways parents can support developmental relationships include the following:

1. Listen to your child without always giving advice or opinions.
2. Ask for your child's opinion.
3. Admit your mistakes and explain how you learn from them.
4. Attend parent-teacher conferences and other school events.
5. Set clear boundaries and expectations for your children.
6. Talk to your children the way you want them to talk to you.
7. Ask other caring adults to spend time with your child.
8. Ask your kids to help with planning a party or other event.
9. Compliment your kids on the good things they do.
10. Do volunteer work with your kids.

Should you want to share this information with parents, please see <http://www.search-institute.org/blog/10-ways-parents-can-build-developmental-relationships>