



METAPHOR

Roots of Success

A metaphor for developmental relationships



The story you're telling

Developmental relationships are like roots that support and nourish young people's success.



In more detail

Just as a system of roots supports and nourishes trees as they develop and grow, nurturing relationships with adults provide a foundation for young people's development by offering them guidance, encouragement, and new opportunities. Cultivating strong roots nourishes young people and supports their development and growth.

Roots of Success



Concepts included in this frame element

- Relationships involve more than caring. The roots concept can be used to help introduce the five elements of developmental relationships: expressing care, challenging growth, providing support, sharing power, and expanding possibilities.
 - Developmental relationships, like roots, provide stability and have lasting benefits.
 - Just as plants need multiple roots, young people need relationships with many adults in many different spaces to sustain their growth.
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User notes

- Emphasize that roots create stability.
- Broaden people’s understanding of the types of relationship that could be considered “developmental.” Name other adults—beyond parents and teachers—that can form strong developmental relationships with children and young people.
- Environmental factors like water, soil or air can be compared to the external factors that facilitate or hinder developmental relationships.
- Show how strong roots lead to various types of positive outcomes. Communicators should use the broad theme of growth to point to the varied outcomes that result from strong developmental relationships.