



# Keep Connected Institute for Strengthening Family Relationships

**Participant Workbook**  
**Day 1**

October 19, 2020



## About Search Institute

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### WHO ARE WE?

Search Institute is a non-profit organization that partners with schools, youth programs, community coalitions, and other organizations to conduct and apply research that promotes positive youth development and advances equity.

### WHAT DO WE DO?

- ✓ We conduct and communicate findings from quantitative and qualitative studies to deepen understanding of and reframe critical issues in youth development and education.
- ✓ We design and deliver workshops, surveys, and other practical resources that help adults and youth improve the connections they build.
- ✓ We bring together the knowledge that is generated and the resources that are created through our research to deeply collaborate with organizations to put youth on the path to thriving.

### WHAT ARE OUR MAJOR GOALS?

Our current strategic plan focuses our learning and practice agenda in three areas:

1. **Strengthen Youth-Adult Relationships**—Develop and test research-based resources that significantly strengthen developmental relationships between young people and their parenting adults as well as an adult staff or volunteers in organizations that primarily serve young people from marginalized communities. Test whether and how these resources significantly improve the social, emotional, civic, and/or academic outcomes of young people from marginalized communities.
2. **Empower Youth to Strengthen Peer Relationships**—Examine young people’s agency in nurturing developmental relationships in their own lives and create research-based resources that strengthen the developmental relationships young people create and sustain with their peers, parenting adults, and other adults, including relationships within and across lines of difference.
3. **Mobilize Relationships in Organizations to Improve Youth Outcomes**—Deepen understanding as well as strategies and tools on how organizations in diverse sectors and settings become relationship rich through an intentional and inclusive focus on cultivating developmental relationships.

### WHERE DO FAMILIES FIT?

Families and parenting adults integral to Search Institute’s understanding of positive youth development and essential to all three of the goals articulated above. Family relationships are primary youth-adult relationships, and young people first develop agency in their relationships within their families, including with siblings. In addition, for organizations to attend to the ecology of young people’s development, it is vital that they recognize the strengths and resources of families, their cultures, and their communities, engaging them as partners and allies in supporting young people’s development and thriving, and in working together for more equitable systems, communities, and societies for all children, youth, and families.

**More information: [www.SearchInstitute.org](http://www.SearchInstitute.org)**

## Learning Objectives

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By the end of the *Keep Connected Institute for Strengthening Family Relationships*, participants will:

1. Contribute to and benefit from an **online learning community** committed to partnering with families.
2. Be able to articulate the **principles, purpose, goals, and structure** behind *Keep Connected* and relationship-centered family engagement at the middle school level.
3. Internalize a deeper understanding of **developmental relationships** in families.
4. Have clear, actionable plans for **connecting with families** and keeping them actively participating in the *Keep Connected* workshop series.
5. Have clarity on the **time and resources** needed to plan and implement *Keep Connected* effectively.
6. Have the knowledge needed to **facilitate** the parent, youth, and family workshops.
7. Create a realistic **start-up plan** for launching your first workshop series for families.

**IN ADDITION:** Receive real-time support from a network of colleagues as you lead *Keep Connected* sessions the first time in your organization. (The peer coaching sessions are considered to be part of the Keep Connected Institute.)



The Keep Connected Institute for Strengthening Family Relationships is approved for Continuing Education Credits for the Certified Family Life Educator program through the [National Council on Family Relations](#).



### Songs about the Ups and Downs of Families Playlist

We're playing music about the joys and sorrows of all kinds of families before, between, and after sessions . . . just because. **If you have more ideas to expand our playlist**, suggest them the chat box on Zoom. If you're interested, enjoy our longer, eclectic Spotify "Families" playlist:

- Spotify: [spotify:playlist:1YaSM5NSrng0kn7ajUnQkJ](https://open.spotify.com/playlist/1YaSM5NSrng0kn7ajUnQkJ)
- Web: [https://open.spotify.com/playlist/1YaSM5NSrng0kn7ajUnQkJ?si=MFd1MtMARb6d\\_KLwZWJKA](https://open.spotify.com/playlist/1YaSM5NSrng0kn7ajUnQkJ?si=MFd1MtMARb6d_KLwZWJKA)

(If any of the choices are offensive to you, please let us know. That's not our intent. If you don't like a particular style or song, feel free to turn down the volume.)



# Keep Connected Institute

## SCHEDULE

### Monday, October 19 (1 – 3 Central)

Welcome and Introductions

1. Brags, Nags, and Aspirations for Partnering with Families
2. *Keep Connected: The Backstory*  
*5-Minute Stretch Break*
3. Reframing Family Engagement: Critical Shifts for Partnering with Today's Families
4. Access the Online Implementation Toolkit

*Adjourn for the Day*

### Tuesday, October 20 (1 – 3 Central)

Guest: Sandra Rascon, Toberman Neighborhood Center, San Pedro, CA

5. Developmental Relationships: The Roots of Success for Young People and Their Families  
*5-Minute Stretch Break*
6. Rethinking Barriers to Partnering With Today's Families

*Adjourn for the Day*

### Wednesday, October 21 (1 – 3 Central)

Guest: Lisa Denzer, Austin Public Schools, Austin, MN

7. Set Up *Keep Connected* for Success  
*5-Minute Stretch Break*
8. Stop Recruiting Families (and What to Do Instead)

*Adjourn for the Day*

### Thursday, October 22 (1 – 3 Central)

Guest Practitioner: Ellie Martinez, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Richmond, VA

9. Prepare to Lead *Keep Connected* Workshops (1)  
*5-Minute Stretch Break*
10. Assess, Improve, and Extend *Keep Connected*  
*Adjourn for the Day*

### Friday, October 23 (1 – 2 Central)

11. Prepare to Lead *Keep Connected* Workshops (2)
12. Finalize Your Start-Up Plan

*Adjourn . . .*

*with the option to stay up to an hour longer for coaching, discussion, planning, etc.*

DECEMBER THROUGH MAY

### Peer Learning Network During Start-Up

(1-hour Zoom calls per month, December – May)

**Six monthly peer-group coaching sessions** (2 options per month) as you launch the workshop series in your own school, organization, or community.

## Brag, Nags, and Aspirations for Partnering with Families

Reflect on your own for a couple of minutes. Jot notes below:



What are your organization's **HOPES** for partnering with families in the next 5 years?

### BREAKOUT ROOM INSTRUCTIONS

1. **Have each person share:**
  - Your name
  - Your organization
  - Where you're from
2. **Then go around again. For 2 minutes only, have each person share one brag, one nag, and/or one aspiration from their sheet.**
3. **No discussion. No interruptions. When done, acknowledge and move to the next person. Respect the time so all have a voice.**
4. **If you have time, discuss shared connections, challenges, goals, etc.**



What **CHALLENGES** will you need to tackle as you partner with families?



What **STRENGTHS** can your organization tap as it partners with families?

## Brag Sheet

# Keep Connected: The Bigger Picture

## The Vision

Partner with school, organizations, and communities to become more **intentional and inclusive** in cultivating developmental relationships **with, within, and among families through all the opportunities** they have to interact with them.

## The Power of Parent-Youth Relationships

Search Institute’s work with families draws heavily on **attachment theory**, which emphasizes that an ongoing “secure base” is critical for development and that these bonds must adjust as young people grow up. When parent-youth relationships adjust and stay strong\*:

Young people are more likely to . . .

- Pay attention
- Disclose
- Seek help

Parenting adults are more likely to . . .

- Invest time, energy
- Have influence
- Avoid harsh responses
- Advocate
- Stay engaged<sup>1</sup>

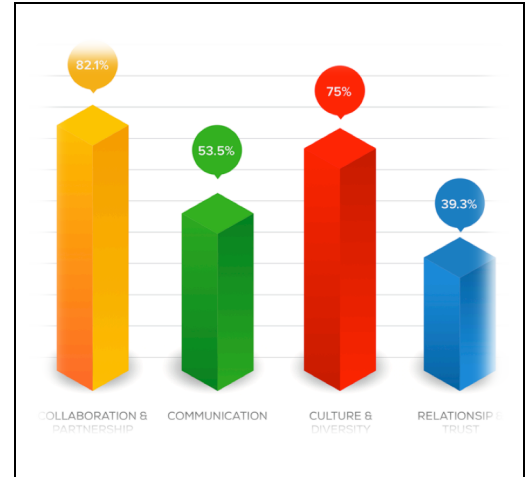
\* Characterized by high mutual bond and trust

## The Challenge of School-Family Relationships

“**Relationships and trust-building** between the school, family and the community is one of the strongest indicators of high-impact family, school and community engagement according to the research literature, yet . . . only 22 states included building trust and relationships with family and community in teaching standards and 37 in administrator standards” (NAFSCE, 2020).

## The Promise of Partnering with Families

Despite the gaps and challenges, research shows that many diverse ways of engaging families and parents have a positive impact on the school (or other organization), the young people and their outcomes, and the families. For example, one longitudinal study found that parental involvement with adolescent learning contributes to students’ viewing teacher-student relationships more positively. These positive views are associated with students valuing school, being engaged, and perceiving themselves to be competent over time (Cheuang, 2019).



<sup>1</sup> Summarized by Search Institute from multiple sources.



OVERVIEW

# Keep Connected

## *Engaging Families by Strengthening Relationships*

*Keep Connected* is a six-session interactive workshop series (plus graduation) that strengthens youth-parent relationships during the middle school years by offering a shared family experience in which youth and parenting adults reflect on, practice, and commit to shared actions that bring—and keep—them together.

### Impact

Youth and parents who participate in *Keep Connected* report . . .

- Improved parent-youth **communication** and **decision making**;
- Increased student motivation sense of **responsibility**;
- Stronger **connections to other families** and the sponsoring organization; and
- More **confidence** for approaching the teen years.

Schools and organizations that offer *Keep Connected* report **stronger connections, deeper trust, and greater engagement** from the participating parents and youth.

### Features

**Developmental relationships:** *Keep Connected* doesn't teach *about* relationships; it creates opportunities for youth, parents, and families to deepen their relationships with each other, with other families, and with facilitators, based on Search Institute's Developmental Relationships Framework.

**Two generations:** Bringing both generations together reflects best practices in the family engagement field, and helps families practice and become comfortable with strengthening relationships.

**Strengths as well as challenges:** *Keep Connected* emphasizes identifying and building on strengths in families. It recognizes that all families face challenges, and some of those challenges are severe. However, resilience comes through discovering and nurturing strengths, even in the midst of those challenges.

**Culturally responsive:** *Keep Connected* draws from families' own experiences, cultures, and traditions to explore parent-youth relationships. Parent materials are currently available in English and Spanish.

**Learning through reflection and practice:** Participants learn from each other and support each other. They share their own experiences, expertise, and stories, guided by a trained facilitator and research-based tools.



### Designed for . . .

- Schools and school districts
- Family-serving organizations
- Youth-serving organizations
- Community education programs
- Faith communities
- Others that seek to support and empower families

### Sessions (full series)

1. Thriving Through the Teenage Years: The Power of Family Relationships
2. You Already Care—How Do You Show It?
3. Sharing Power—Even When It's Challenging
4. In the Zone: Challenge and Support Growth
5. It's a Big World Out There: Helping Each Other Discover Possibilities
6. Growing Together through the Teen Years
7. Celebrating Your Family's Journey Together: The Graduation

## The Flow of an In-Person Keep Connected Session

### Leader Preparation

- Can take 2+ hours to prepare for the session the first time you go through it. Less intense after that.
- Can be efficient to get all the supplies and make all copies up front.
- Invite and remind families individually.

### Family Meal

(about 30 min.)

- Allow families time to socialize; can provide discussion starters or games.
- Families or youth often select menu. (Could prepare it too).
- 10 min. before session: Update on at-home activities and review the session objectives.

### Youth Session

(concurrent with parents; about 45 min.)

- Parallel themes with what the parenting adults are covering.
- Interactive, discussion oriented, and some games to learn from.
- Do a craft project: Family Pledge to Keep Connected, which is part of the 7th session—graduation.
- Extra theme-related activities if the session ends before the parents.

### Parenting Adult Session

(concurrent with youth; about 45 min.)

- Ideal for 6 to 10 parenting adults.
- Parallel themes with the youth session.
- Discussion oriented; no lectures, video, or PowerPoint included. Optional videos are available for most sessions.
- Handouts are in English and Spanish.
- Parents are often very eager to share experiences, making it difficult to end on time or to complete the session.

### Family Session

(about 45 min.)

- Youth and parents come together to share what they talked about.
- Focuses on ways families can strengthen relationships together.
- Families learn from each other.
- Draws on their own experience, culture.
- Take home “practices” they can use.
- Sessions can be awkward at first, but they get more relaxed by session 3.

### At-Home Activities

- Families select one or more activities to do at home to deepen their relationships based on the session topic.
- Activities are as simple as discussion-starter questions to more involved activities such as a family meeting.
- Families are asked to report on what they did when they start each session.



## Keep Connected: How Might It Best Fit in Your Setting?

*Keep Connected* strengthens youth-parent relationships during the middle school years by offering a shared family experience in which youth and parenting adults reflect on, practice, and commit to shared actions that bring—and keep—them together.

### Available variations

	Who It Is For	Participants	Time Commitment	Format	Notes
<b>Keep Connected: Full In-Person Series for Youth and Parenting Adults</b>	Parents & middle school youth together	6 – 10 families	2 hours (including a meal) over 7 sessions (usually weekly)	In person	This version is the only version that has been extensively used and tested.
<b>Keep Connected: Reducing Risks by Strengthening Relationships</b>	Parents & middle school youth together	6 – 10 families	2 hours, 1 session (designed to be added to the full series); can also be standalone.	In Person	This module adds a prevention focus to the <i>Keep Connected</i> series.
<b>Keep Connected: Full In-Person Series for Parenting Adults Only</b>	Parenting Adults Only	8-12 parenting adults	2 hours (including a meal) over 7 sessions (usually weekly)	In Person	Parallel content to the youth-parent sessions, but without youth involvement.
<b>READY IN JANUARY 2021</b> <b>Keep Connected: Short In-Person Series for Youth and Parenting Adults</b>	Parents & middle school youth together	6 – 10 families	90 minutes per session; 4 sessions	In Person	This will be a pilot version, and we will be asking for feedback as it is used.
<b>READY IN JANUARY 2021</b> <b>Keep Connected: Short Virtual Series for Parenting Adults</b>	Parenting Adults Only	15 – 20 parenting adults	1 hour per session; 4 sessions	Virtual	This will be a pilot version, and we will be asking for feedback as it is used.

What resonates?	What might be problematic?	What do you need to know more about?

## 7 Shifts Toward Relationship-Centered Family Engagement

Search Institute relationship-centered approach is grounded in seven principles or strategies that grow out of the literature on family engagement as well as our ongoing research and practice efforts. We often express these strategies through seven shifts from dominant mindsets in this society about families and parent or family engagement with schools and other organizations. (Note that some of the strategies in the “dominant mindset” still have value in particular circumstances. However, we are suggesting they are over-emphasized or disproportionately used.)

DOMINANT MINDSETS IN THE PUBLIC	RELATIONSHIP-CENTERED STRATEGIES
<p><b>1. Focus on Deficits or Risks in Families</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on how families fail their kids</li> <li>• Connect primarily when problems arise</li> <li>• Offer programs focused on risks</li> <li>• View failures as evidence of dysfunction</li> <li>• Assume that professionals know more about what the family should do than the family does</li> </ul>	<p><b>Tap Families’ Strengths and Resilience</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See families as resourceful and resilient amid adversity</li> <li>• Recognize the strengths in all types of families.</li> <li>• Build on the qualities that are already present in the family, culture, community</li> <li>• Respect every families’ dignity, autonomy, and goals</li> <li>• Recognize systemic injustice, barriers families face</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Recruit Families to Participate</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We know what families need, and they just need to come</li> <li>• Communication is primarily one way</li> <li>• Transactional—accomplishing tasks that must be done</li> <li>• If they don’t show up, they must not care</li> </ul>	<p><b>Deepen Relationships With Families</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take time to build mutual trust</li> <li>• Show interest in a family’s situation</li> <li>• Invite based on their goals, priorities</li> <li>• Build your own intercultural humility and competence</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Build Parenting Skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teach parents to manage their children’s behaviors</li> <li>• Send them lots of information and resources so they can solve the problems</li> <li>• View parents as almost solely responsible for what their children do</li> </ul>	<p><b>Nurture Relationships Within Families</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocate for families to have opportunities for meaningful and fun time together</li> <li>• Give time to practice relational skills and strategies</li> <li>• Reinforce routines, habits, rituals that sustain relationships</li> <li>• Support families as relationships change</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Work Primarily With Individual Families</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on helping individual families</li> <li>• See your organization as connecting hub</li> <li>• Offer expert help for major issues</li> <li>• Become overwhelmed with all the issues</li> </ul>	<p><b>Cultivate Relationships Among Families</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• View culture and community as strengths</li> <li>• Recognize community, home as the hub</li> <li>• Support formal, informal networks about general and specific challenges</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. Focus on a Developmental Period, Setting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invest most resources in early childhood programs</li> <li>• Assume that early experiences are enough</li> <li>• Set up programming for each age separately</li> <li>• Focus resources on individual connecting points, most often schools</li> </ul>	<p><b>Engage Across Transitions and Settings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep continuity, adjusting as needs change</li> <li>• Guide families to new options that fit them</li> <li>• Help families navigate challenging transitions</li> <li>• Engage families across settings, including schools, youth programs, faith communities, child welfare, etc.</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. Advance the Organization’s Agenda</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on what we need families to do</li> <li>• “Engagement” = participation or “showing up”</li> <li>• Send lots of information about our priorities</li> </ul>	<p><b>Co-Create an Agenda</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listen to families’ hopes, fears</li> <li>• Find common ground</li> <li>• Invest in helping families be their best</li> </ul>
<p><b>7. Serve Families</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Families are our “customers” or “clients”</li> <li>• We have what families need</li> <li>• Focus on marketing services</li> </ul>	<p><b>Empower Families</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognize families as resources</li> <li>• Encourage engagement in community service, civic action</li> <li>• Informal and formal leadership roles that fit families’ gifts</li> <li>• Partner with families for equity and justice in society.</li> </ul>



## The (Sometimes Hidden) Strengths in Families

For at least 50 years, researcher around the world have been working to shift the conversation from asking only "Why do families fail?" to also asking "How do families succeed?" particularly in the face of historical trauma, systemic barriers, and other daunting challenges. And around the world when they listen to families with that question in mind, they hear many of the same strengths over and over.

Which strengths do families you know draw on, even when they faced with chronic challenges? (If you think of other strengths that are important, add them in the open space on the page.)

<b>APPRECIATION AND AFFECTION</b>	<b>COMMITMENT</b>
Caring for each other	Trust
Friendship	Honesty
Respect for individuality	Dependability
Playfulness	Faithfulness
Humor	Sharing
<b>POSITIVE COMMUNICATION</b>	<b>TIME TOGETHER</b>
Sharing feelings	Quality time in great quantity
Giving compliments	Good things take time
Avoiding blame	Enjoying each other's company
Being able to compromise	Simple good times
Agreeing to disagree	Sharing fun times
<b>SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING</b>	<b>THE ABILITY TO COPE WITH STRESS AND CRISIS</b>
Hope	Adaptability
Faith	Seeing crises as challenges and opportunities
Compassion	Growing through crises together
Shared ethical values	Openness to change
Oneness with humankind	Resilience

Excerpted from "Family Strengths." *International Encyclopedia of Marriage and Family*. Also see DeFrain & Asay, 2014.



## Connecting Families with Families

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One of the experiences parenting adults most value is the opportunity to connect with other parenting adults who share their experiences. Yet is it hard for most people to “break the ice” and start talking with people they don’t know. So they may attend events and sit uncomfortably. You can encourage families to connect with others who share interests, are working on similar issues, or who might just enjoy getting to know each other. Here are some ways you can help families connect with each other, opening the door to them building supportive, mutual relationships.

### When Families Gather Formally

- **Invite everyone to wear nametags**, even if you gather as a group regularly. Some people may be new to the group and others may just have a harder time remembering names. When everyone has a nametag, it avoids the awkward moments.
- **Create a culture where everyone can participate fully.** You may want to set shared ground rules *or expectations* about how group members interact, give everyone a chance to check in, use a talking piece to discourage interruptions, and other techniques to give everyone a voice.
- **Share your own experiences or struggles** as a way to model that every family faces both challenges and successes. It can also open up more connections in the group. (Make sure your stories don’t overpower the session or imply that your style is the “right” way.)

### When Families Gather Informally

- **Invite everyone to wear nametags.** Ask them to include their child’s names, which may help parents make connections: “Oh, you’re Sammi’s Mom! My daughter Ellie talk about Sammi all the time.”
- **Place discussion-starter questions** on tables, on the walls, or other places where they can’t be missed. Make them fun. Tie them into the event. Avoid asking deep, personal questions

that people may feel awkward talking about. (You can find some question in the “Talk about It” sections on [www.KeepConnected.info](http://www.KeepConnected.info)).

- **Designate interest areas during informal gatherings** where parents with similar interests might connect for a few minutes. The topics could be serious (e.g., managing homework, dealing with social media) or plain fun (favorite rides at the State Fair, Six Flags, or the county fair, best concert when they were growing up).
- When you see two parenting adults who you think might share an interest sitting across the room from each other, suggest that you **introduce them to each other**. Do that, get the conversation started, and step away after your successful “warm handoff.”

### When Families Are in the Community

- If you have it, **offer them comfortable space to meet** or other logistical support that might make it easier for them to stay in touch with each other.
- If you know a parent who’s looking for guidance on a particular challenge and you know others who have worked on it, **offer to make the connection** after checking to be sure they’re okay to do that. Then follow through.
- **Be present in the community.** Take walks in neighborhoods. Visit parks and go to high school games. Show up at festivals. When you see parents and families, greet them warmly.



## Co-Creating an Agenda for Youth and Families with Families

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Here are some ideas for ways to get started:

1. **Start with building relationships and trust.** Everything else will be easier once you know them and they know you.
2. **Listen first.** Just asking for input after a plan is created either invites conflict or creates a lot of extra work if their ideas are not at all in sync.
3. **Tie opportunities to interests.** Some parenting adults will have expertise and interests that will be a major contribution in some areas, but they could become completely bored in others.
4. **Give extra time,** recognizing that their participation is voluntary, often on top of one or more jobs as well as their family responsibilities.
5. **Capitalize on the cultural strengths and connections** that families bring. Some may connect with communities (such as immigrant communities) who might otherwise be less likely to give input into a shared agenda. These families could be strategic in adding important voices to the conversation.
6. **Identify a variety of opportunities to engage parenting adults** in co-creating the agenda from simple, quick feedback surveys to serving on ongoing task forces or boards, recognizing that different families will have varied levels of interest and capacity to participate at different times.
7. **Cultivate leaders over time,** building relationships and capacities to work with you and to understand both the opportunities and limitations for engagement within your organization.
8. **Engage parent leaders as full partners** in listening and learning, in shaping plans and making decisions about what to do.



## What Are You Already Doing? Where Might You Grow?

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1. **Checkmark the 1-3 strategies** that you believe are most important to address in our organization in 2021-2022?
  2. **Select one** that you will focus on for a conversation. Go to that breakout room. If it's full, go to a second choice.
  3. **Breakout:** Introduce yourselves. Then everyone talk about **what you're already doing** in that area that is working.
  4. **Then:** Brainstorm ideas for other things you could do to grow in this area. Build on each other's ideas.
  5. Be ready to **report out your 3 most creative** but doable ideas to the whole group.
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### STRATEGIES

### WHAT WE ALREADY DO

### WAYS WE COULD GROW

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#### Tap Families' Strengths and Resilience

- See families as resourceful and resilient amid adversity
  - Recognize the strengths in all types of families.
  - Build on the qualities that are already present
  - Respect every families' dignity, autonomy, and goals
  - Recognize systemic injustice, barriers families face
- 

#### Deepen Relationships With Families

- Take time to build mutual trust
  - Show interest in a family's situation
  - Invite based on their goals, priorities
  - Build your own intercultural humility and competence
- 

#### Nurture Relationships Within Families

- Advocate for families to have meaningful and fun time together
  - Give time to practice relational skills and strategies
  - Reinforce routines, habits, rituals that sustain relationships
  - Support families as relationships change
- 

#### Cultivate Relationships Among Families

- View culture and community as strengths
  - Recognize community, home as the hub
  - Support formal, informal networks about challenges
- 

#### Engage Across Transitions and Settings

- Keep continuity, adjusting as needs change
  - Guide families to new options that fit them
  - Help families navigate challenging transitions
  - Engage families across settings, including schools, youth programs, faith communities, child welfare, etc.
- 

#### Co-Create a Shared Agenda

- Listen to families' hopes, fears
  - Find common ground
  - Invest in helping families be their best
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#### Empower Families

- Recognize families as resources
  - Encourage engagement in community service, civic action
  - Informal and formal leadership roles that fit families' gifts
  - Partner with families for equity and justice in society.
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# The Keep Connected Implementation Toolkit

[www.KeepConnected.info/register-login/](http://www.KeepConnected.info/register-login/)

**User name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Password:** \_\_\_\_\_

*(Passwords are linked to specific email addresses. Only people who have attended the Keep Connected Institute can receive a password linked to an email to access the Implementation Toolkit)*

<p><b>The Backstory of Keep Connected</b></p> <p>Key ideas, rationale, background, and research base for <i>Keep Connected</i>.</p>	<p><b>Planning and Organizing <i>Keep Connected</i> Workshops</b></p> <p>Features and logistics of planning and organizing <i>Keep Connected</i> workshops.</p>	<p><b>Inviting Families—and Keeping Them Coming</b></p> <p>Strategies and tools to tackle participation challenges.</p>
<p><b>Materials for Leading Workshops</b></p> <p>Facilitator’s guides, handouts, and other materials (English and Spanish).</p>	<p><b>Facilitation Guidelines and Strategies</b></p> <p>Ideas for facilitating sessions with youth, parents, and families together.</p>	<p><b>Feedback and Evaluation Resources</b></p> <p>Surveys and feedback forms to get and give feedback on <i>Keep Connected</i>.</p>
<p><b>Extend <i>Keep Connected</i> Beyond the Workshops</b></p> <p>More opportunities for families to connect, learn, and lead.</p>	<p><b>Material from <i>Keep Connected</i> Institute</b></p> <p>Access workbooks and other materials from the <i>Keep Connected</i> Institute.</p>	<p><b>Promotional Tools and Resources</b></p> <p>Tools to generate interest and reinforce person-to-person outreach.</p>



## Expectations of Trained Facilitators

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