

Real-world Ideas for Implementing the Six Drivers of Persistence

Community and belonging

Creating a welcoming environment; encouraging students to take part in LVCA activities such as field trips and recognition ceremonies; helping student become aware of opportunities and resources in the surrounding community

Clarity of purpose

Starting where student is in terms of life challenges and goals; making connections between what students want to achieve and what is being taught; helping students understand why a particular skill is being taught and why it is important to learn it; listening to student's stories and focusing on where they want to go with their learning

A sense of competence

Starting instruction with skills students already have to scaffold them into higher level skills; helping students recognize their own progress through review of past work; offering authentic praise based on measurable achievement; helping students develop good study and organizational skills; helping students overcome negative self-image through encouragement and by identifying strengths; giving students opportunities to be the "expert" by asking questions about their home country, their native language, past education and professions, family members, etc., where appropriate

Stability

Establishing regular schedules, meeting place, and lesson routines; setting expectations of promptness, courtesy, and regular attendance; establishing clear means of communication and the process for cancelling a session when necessary; positive, supportive, predictable tutor demeanor

Relevance

Providing instruction and materials that relate to a student's life, work, and family; using authentic materials (grocery store flyers, bus schedules, newspapers, work schedules, etc.) in ways that help students navigate everyday life and its challenges; relating instruction to a student's long and short term goals; checking in from time to time to further refine and clarify goals and adjusting tutoring focus as needed

Agency

Involving students in decisions about instruction by asking for input and offering choices; supporting student efforts to become independent in the community; helping students learn ways to express opinions; making sure students know it is acceptable to say, "I don't understand" or "Please repeat that" or "Please speak more slowly."

Some Strategies To Try if Motivation Is Lagging

- Try more praise.
- Try fewer corrections.
- Try new ways of presenting instruction such as using videos, apps, newspapers, short novels, or a different workbook.
- Try using materials and instruction more closely related to your student's life.
- Try talking to your student about his/her source of discouragement and perhaps using the situation as a writing prompt.
- Try learning something about your student's home country and then asking questions.
- Try varying your routine by planning a field trip and role-playing ahead of time.
- Try starting a list of accomplishments and sharing it each month.