

# Maximizing Smallness: Successful Relationships, Successful Learning

Joe Feldman
Facilitation at Emeryville Community Design Workshop
January 25, 2012



### Activity 1: Successful Learning

Recall a time when you had a successful learning experience (in/out of school, academic/non-academic, young/yesterday, etc.).

- Describe the learning experience. In particular, think about...
  - What did you learn?
  - Who helped you learn?
  - Did you know her/him before the experience? Did that person know you?
  - Did your connection to that person change as a result? Did their connection to you change as a result of the experience?

Silently as Individuals (3 min)

Share with a partner (who you don't already know well) and explore commonalities and differences (7 min)

Share outs (20 min)



### Relationships and Learning

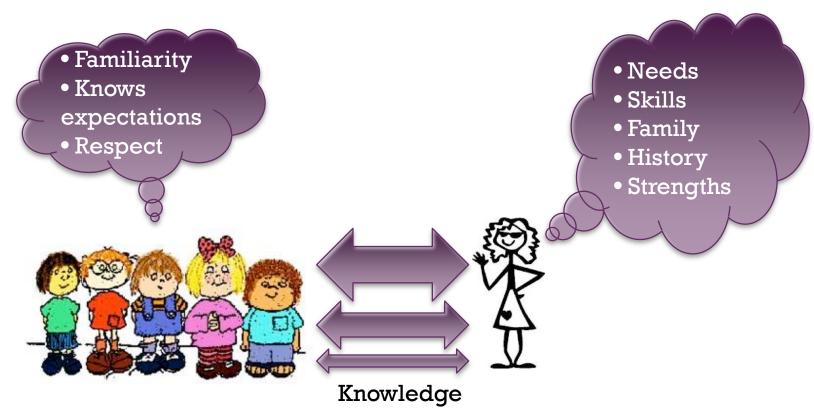
- I. Learning through Knowledge and Care
- II. Maximizing "Smallness"
- III. Relationships and building a culture of care for academic success



#### Learning through Knowledge and Care

#### **Effective Learning**

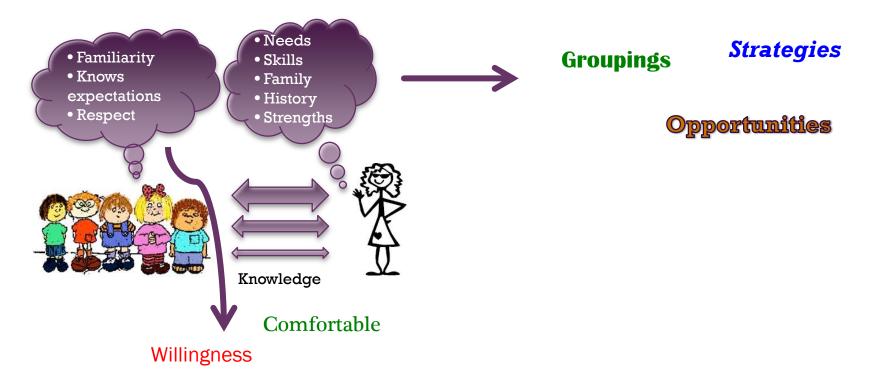
1. Adults knowing students; students knowing adults



### <sup>+</sup>Learning through Knowledge and Care

#### Effective Learning

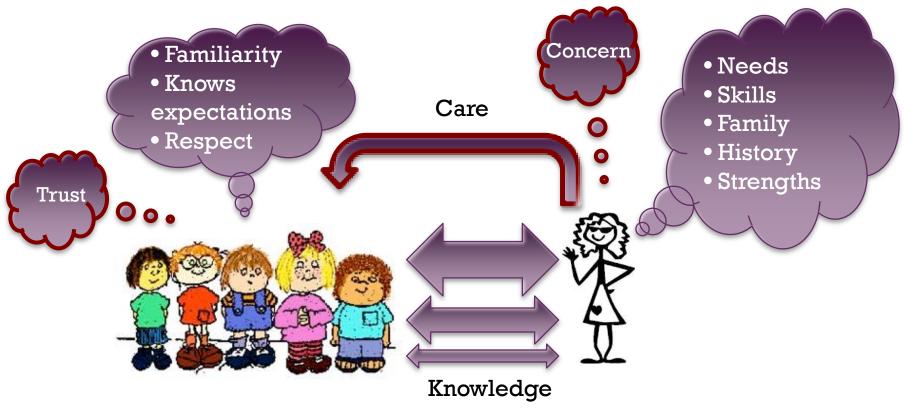
1. Adults knowing students; students knowing adults



# \*Learning through Knowledge and Care

#### **Effective Learning**

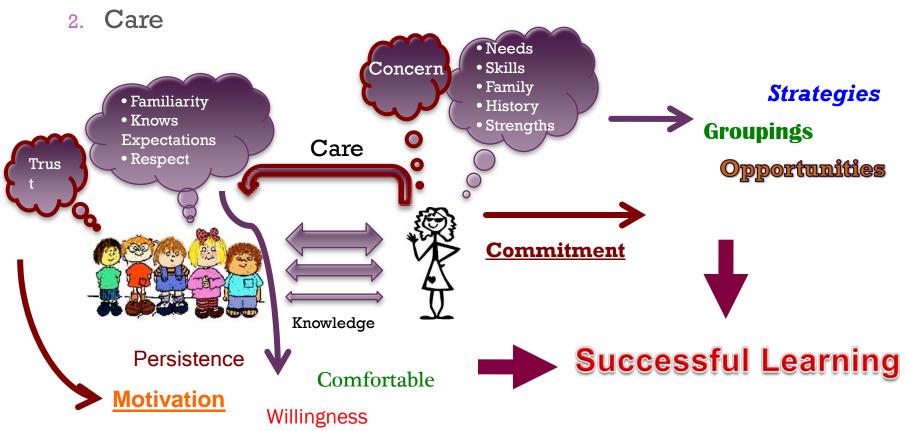
- 1. Adults knowing students; students knowing adults
- 2. Care



### \*Learning through Knowledge and Care

#### **Effective Learning**

1. Adults knowing students; students knowing adults



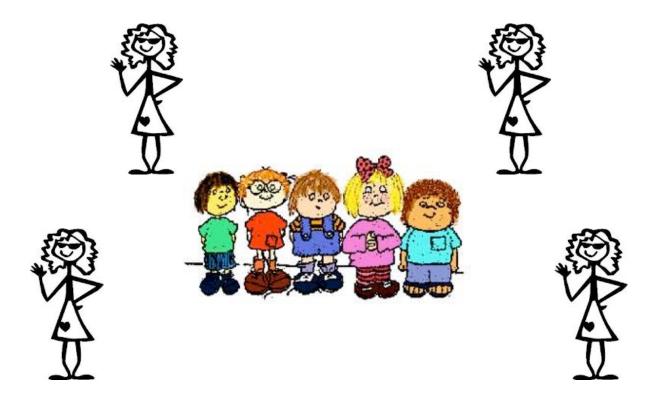
## Learning through Knowledge and Care

...many otherwise reasonable people seem to believe that our educational problems consist largely of low scores on achievement tests. My contention is, first, that we should want more from our education efforts than adequate academic achievement and, second, that we will not achieve even that meager success unless our children believe that they themselves are cared for and learn to care for others (Noddings, 1995).



### Maximizing "Smallness"

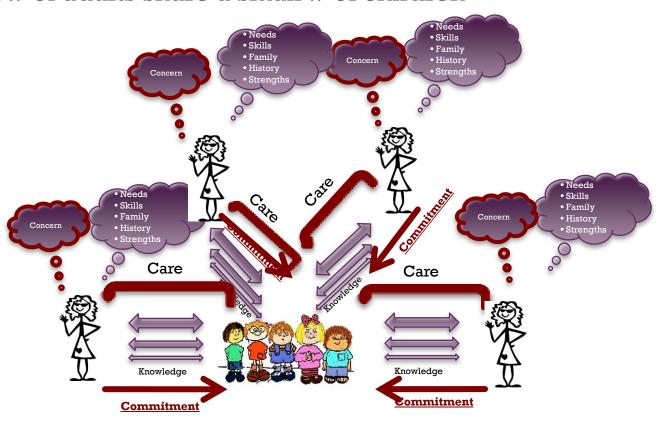
■ A small # of adults share a small # of children





### **Maximizing Smallness**

■ A small # of adults share a small # of children

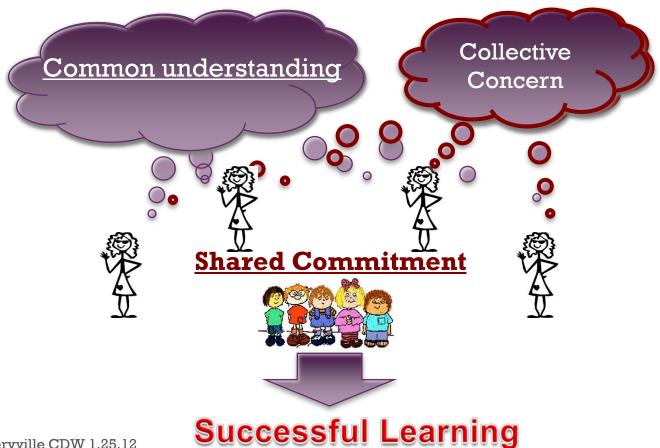




#### +

### **Maximizing Smallness**

■ A small # of adults share a small # of children





# Building a culture of care for academic success

- There is no guarantee that learning and care will occur within a small setting. However, a small setting provides many more opportunities for learning and care to occur.
- Communication and proximity are crucial in order for adults to develop a common understanding, collective concern, and shared commitment.
- "Adults" is an expansive category—the more expansive, the more opportunity for collaborative efforts, and the more powerful the potential for student success.



# Activity 2: Fish Bowls

What ideas (from Activity 1 or the presentation) resonate with you, or are bouncing around in your head, as you think about the Emeryville Center of Community Life?

- Group 1: Adults that work with youth
- Group 2: Parents/Guardians

#### Community Design Workshop 6 January 25, 2012

#### **Evaluation Summary**

On a scale from 1-5, the overall averages for each were:

(5 = Strongly Agree, 1 = Strongly Disagree)

The workshop was well organized: 4.75 I enjoyed the format: 4 I felt my ideas and concerns were heard: 4.4





#### What was your favorite part?

Joe's presentation and schematic was nice. Joe was a good choice to facilitate Sharing out loud Always appreciate hearing everyone's point of view Person-to-person Refocus on learning environment Fishbowl comments Listening to Joe Feldman Variety of feedback Listening to other community members' perspectives and ideas

#### **Summary:**

- 1. We like Joe!
- 2. Sharing and hearing others' perspectives and experiences
- 3. Refocus on the learning environment

#### How can workshops be Improved? Other Comments and suggestions.

- 1. For most, the workshop was enjoyable, but there was confusion on the purpose of the workshop and how it fits into the big picture of the ECCL project.
- 2. Have ice-breakers for community attendees to get to know each other.
- 3. Articulate or have visible GOAL(s)/OUTCOME(s) for the workshop.
- 4. The beginning presentation would be better if it was more interactive with the audience.