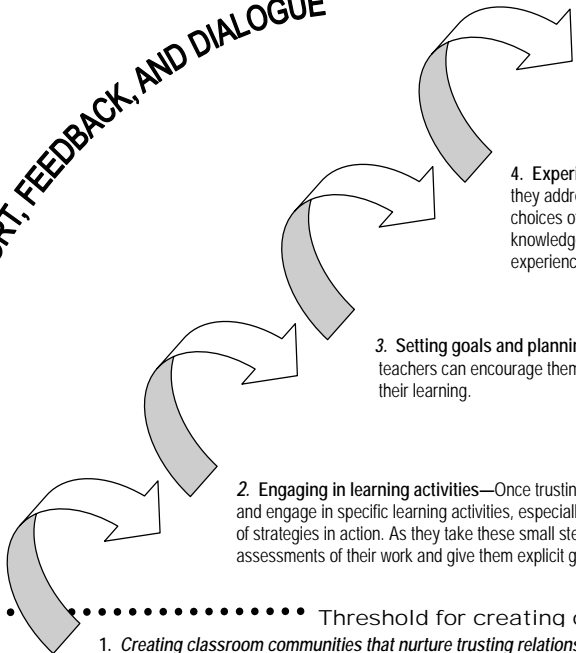


Figure 2 The dynamics of developing academic momentum with reluctant students

SOCIAL SUPPORT, FEEDBACK, AND DIALOGUE



1. **Creating classroom communities that nurture trusting relationships**—Caring relationships are the key to engaging reluctant learners. Successful teachers cultivate trust by involving students in conversations that allow them to learn more about students as individuals, to understand their academic strengths and needs, and to encourage shared responsibility and team building. They also promote positive relationships among students so that they support each other.

2. **Engaging in learning activities**—Once trusting relationships develop, students can begin to take some risks and engage in specific learning activities, especially those that “scaffold” strategy instruction and provide models of strategies in action. As they take these small steps, they begin to expect teachers to provide honest assessments of their work and give them explicit guidance.

3. **Setting goals and planning**—As students engage more frequently with learning strategies, teachers can encourage them to set goals, make plans, and assume more responsibility for their learning.

4. **Experimenting with new behaviors, thoughts, and feelings**—As they address goals and enact plans, students find it helpful to have choices of assignments. They can consider alternatives, tap prior knowledge, try strategies in different ways and relate them to real-world experiences.

5. **Growing stronger academically**—As students gain confidence in themselves, they assess their progress more candidly, monitor their engagement, refine their goals, and improve their skills, thereby increasing academic momentum and achievement.