

40 Developmental Assets™

Search Institute has identified the following building blocks of healthy development that help young people grow up healthy, caring, and responsible.

External Assets

♥ Support

1. **Family Support:** Family life provides high levels of love and support.
2. **Positive Family Communication:** Young person and her or his parent(s) communicate positively, and young person is willing to seek advice and counsel from parents.
3. **Other Adult Relationships:** Young person receives support from three or more nonparent adults.
4. **Caring Neighborhood:** Young person experiences caring neighbors.
5. **Caring School Climate:** School provides a caring, encouraging environment.
6. **Parent Involvement in Schooling:** Parent(s) are actively involved in helping young person succeed in school.

☀ Empowerment

7. **Community Values Youth:** Young person perceives that adults in the community value youth.
8. **Youth as Resources:** Young people are given useful roles in the community.
9. **Service to Others:** Young person serves in the community one hour or more per week.
10. **Safety:** Young person feels safe at home, school, and in the neighborhood.

★ Boundaries and Expectations

11. **Family Boundaries:** Family has clear rules and consequences and monitors the young person's whereabouts.
12. **School Boundaries:** School provides clear rules and consequences.
13. **Neighborhood Boundaries:** Neighbors take responsibility for monitoring young people's behavior.
14. **Adult Role Models:** Parent(s) and other adults model positive, responsible behavior.
15. **Positive Peer Influence:** Young person's best friends model responsible behavior.
16. **High Expectations:** Both parent(s) and teachers encourage the young person to do well.

🕒 Constructive Use of Time

17. **Creative Activities:** Young person spends three or more hours per week in lessons or practice in music, theater, or other arts.
18. **Youth Programs:** Young person spends three or more hours per week in sports, clubs, or organizations at school and/or in the community.
19. **Religious Community:** Young person spends one or more hours per week in activities in a religious institution.
20. **Time at Home:** Young person is out with friends "with nothing special to do" two or fewer nights per week.

Internal Assets

💡 Commitment to Learning

21. **Achievement Motivation:** Young person is motivated to do well in school.
22. **School Engagement:** Young person is actively engaged in learning.
23. **Homework:** Young person reports doing at least one hour of homework every school day.
24. **Bonding to School:** Young person cares about her or his school.
25. **Reading for Pleasure:** Young person reads for pleasure three or more hours per week.

⊕ Positive Values

26. **Caring:** Young person places high value on helping other people.
27. **Equality and Social Justice:** Young person places high value on promoting equality and reducing hunger and poverty.
28. **Integrity:** Young person acts on convictions and stands up for her or his beliefs.
29. **Honesty:** Young person "tells the truth even when it is not easy."
30. **Responsibility:** Young person accepts and takes personal responsibility.
31. **Restraint:** Young person believes it is important not to be sexually active or to use alcohol or other drugs.

😊 Social Competence

32. **Planning and Decision Making:** Young person knows how to plan ahead and make choices.
33. **Interpersonal Competence:** Young person has empathy, sensitivity, and friendship skills.
34. **Cultural Competence:** Young person has knowledge of and comfort with people of different cultural/racial/ethnic backgrounds.
35. **Resistance Skills:** Young person can resist negative peer pressure and dangerous situations.
36. **Peaceful Conflict Resolution:** Young person seeks to resolve conflict nonviolently.

👍 Positive Identity

37. **Personal Power:** Young person feels he or she has control over "things that happen to me."
38. **Self-Esteem:** Young person reports having a high self-esteem.
39. **Sense of Purpose:** Young person reports that "my life has a purpose."
40. **Positive View of Personal Future:** Young person is optimistic about her or his personal future.

