

Search Institute's 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 non-parent 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, at 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 Competencies

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.