



40 Developmental Assets

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

CATEGORY	ASSET NAME AND DEFINITION
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External Assets

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| 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 parent(s). | |
| | 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, at school, and in the neighborhood. |
| | Boundaries & 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

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| 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. |