

Assets and America's Promise

America's Promise Resources	Connections with the 40 Developmental Assets
<p>1. Ongoing relationships with caring adults — Communities need to provide all young people with sustained adult relationships through which they experience support, care, guidance, and advocacy.</p>	<p>In addition to assets that support family relationships, there are several assets that explicitly focus on relationships with nonparent adults (#3: other adult relationships, #4: caring neighborhood, #7: community values youth).</p> <p>All of the Developmental Assets are nurtured primarily through relationships.</p> <p>Asset building highlights several dimensions of caring relationships, including support, boundaries, high expectations, and nurturing internal assets.</p> <p>The asset building vision motivates adults to get personally involved in the lives of youth.</p>
<p>2. Safe places and structured activities — Children and youth need structured, enriching ways to spend their time, and they need to be safe.</p>	<p>The constructive use of time assets focus on providing structured activities in multiple settings.</p> <p>Safety is Developmental Asset #10.</p> <p>Developmental Assets highlight the possibilities for structured activities in multiple settings (schools, community organizations, congregations).</p>
<p>3. A healthy start for a healthy future — Children and youth need access to services and opportunities—from economic security to good health care to ongoing health education—that ensure that they stay healthy.</p>	<p>Increases in Developmental Assets can reduce health risks such as chemical use and precocious sexual activity.</p> <p>Internal assets in categories of positive values, social competencies, and positive identity may increase the likelihood that young people will take better care of their own health.</p> <p>The asset building focus emphasizes that a healthy start includes the first 2 decades of life, not only the first 5 years.</p>
<p>4. Marketable skills through effective education — For young people to thrive in a changing global economy, they must have skills in reading, math, science, etc., as well as job-specific skills.</p>	<p>Social competencies are essential foundational skills for employment.</p> <p>Several assets address dimensions of effective education, including school climate (#5), school bonding (#24), and high expectations (#16).</p> <p>An ongoing commitment to learning (1 of the asset categories) is essential in a global economy.</p>
<p>5. Opportunities to serve — Young people need opportunities to contribute to their communities, a powerful component of growth and an important strategy in shaping America's future.</p>	<p>Service to others is asset #9.</p> <p>Two of the positive values assets focus on caring and a commitment to global issues.</p> <p>Young people with more Developmental Assets are more likely to volunteer.</p>