

# 40 Developmental Assets® for Middle Childhood

Search Institute® has identified the following building blocks of healthy development—known as **Developmental Assets**®—that help young people grow up healthy, caring, and responsible.

<b>External Assets</b>	<b>Support</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Family support</b>—Family life provides high levels of love and support.</li> <li>2. <b>Positive family communication</b>—Parent(s) and child communicate positively. Child feels comfortable seeking advice and counsel from parent(s).</li> <li>3. <b>Other adult relationships</b>—Child receives support from adults other than her or his parent(s).</li> <li>4. <b>Caring neighborhood</b>—Child experiences caring neighbors.</li> <li>5. <b>Caring school climate</b>—Relationships with teachers and peers provide a caring, encouraging environment.</li> <li>6. <b>Parent involvement in schooling</b>—Parent(s) are actively involved in helping the child succeed in school.</li> </ol>
	<b>Empowerment</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. <b>Community values youth</b>—Child feels valued and appreciated by adults in the community.</li> <li>8. <b>Children as resources</b>—Child is included in decisions at home and in the community.</li> <li>9. <b>Service to others</b>—Child has opportunities to help others in the community.</li> <li>10. <b>Safety</b>—Child feels safe at home, at school, and in his or her neighborhood.</li> </ol>
	<b>Boundaries &amp; Expectations</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. <b>Family boundaries</b>—Family has clear and consistent rules and consequences and monitors the child's whereabouts.</li> <li>12. <b>School Boundaries</b>—School provides clear rules and consequences.</li> <li>13. <b>Neighborhood boundaries</b>—Neighbors take responsibility for monitoring the child's behavior.</li> <li>14. <b>Adult role models</b>—Parent(s) and other adults in the child's family, as well as nonfamily adults, model positive, responsible behavior.</li> <li>15. <b>Positive peer influence</b>—Child's closest friends model positive, responsible behavior.</li> <li>16. <b>High expectations</b>—Parent(s) and teachers expect the child to do her or his best at school and in other activities.</li> </ol>
	<b>Constructive Use of Time</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>17. <b>Creative activities</b>—Child participates in music, art, drama, or creative writing two or more times per week.</li> <li>18. <b>Child programs</b>—Child participates two or more times per week in cocurricular school activities or structured community programs for children..</li> <li>19. <b>Religious community</b>—Child attends religious programs or services one or more times per week.</li> <li>20. <b>Time at home</b>—Child spends some time most days both in high-quality interaction with parents and doing things at home other than watching TV or playing video games.</li> </ol>

41. Cultural Diversity (added by Foundation of Family Values)

<b>Internal Assets</b>	<b>Commitment to Learning</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>21. <b>Achievement Motivation</b>—Child is motivated and strives to do well in school.</li> <li>22. <b>Learning Engagement</b>—Child is responsive, attentive, and actively engaged in learning at school and enjoys participating in learning activities outside of school.</li> <li>23. <b>Homework</b>—Child usually hands in homework on time.</li> <li>24. <b>Bonding to school</b>—Child cares about teachers and other adults at school.</li> <li>25. <b>Reading for Pleasure</b>—Child enjoys and engages in reading for fun most days of the week.</li> </ol>
	<b>Positive Values</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>26. <b>Caring</b>—Parent(s) tell the child it is important to help other people.</li> <li>27. <b>Equality and social justice</b>—Parent(s) tell the child it is important to speak up for equal rights for all people.</li> <li>28. <b>Integrity</b>—Parent(s) tell the child it is important to stand up for one's beliefs.</li> <li>29. <b>Honesty</b>—Parent(s) tell the child it is important to tell the truth.</li> <li>30. <b>Responsibility</b>—Parent(s) tell the child it is important to accept personal responsibility for behavior.</li> <li>31. <b>Healthy Lifestyle</b>—Parent(s) tell the child it is important to have good health habits and an understanding of healthy sexuality.</li> </ol>
	<b>Social Competencies</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>32. <b>Planning and decision making</b>—Child thinks about decisions and is usually happy with results of her or his decisions.</li> <li>33. <b>Interpersonal Competence</b>—Child cares about and is affected by other people's feelings, enjoys making friends, and, when frustrated or angry, tries to calm her- or himself.</li> <li>34. <b>Cultural Competence</b>—Child knows and is comfortable with people of different racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds and with her or his own cultural identity.</li> <li>35. <b>Resistance skills</b>—Child can stay away from people who are likely to get her or him in trouble and is able to say no to doing wrong or dangerous things.</li> <li>36. <b>Peaceful conflict resolution</b>—Child seeks to resolve conflict nonviolently.</li> </ol>
	<b>Positive Identity</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>37. <b>Personal power</b>—Child feels he or she has some influence over things that happen in her or his life.</li> <li>38. <b>Self-esteem</b>—Child likes and is proud to be the person that he or she is.</li> <li>39. <b>Sense of purpose</b>—Child sometimes thinks about what life means and whether there is a purpose for her or his life.</li> <li>40. <b>Positive view of personal future</b>—Child is optimistic about her or his personal future.</li> </ol>