Developmental Assets: Everyone's an Asset Builder

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What are Developmental Assets?

The Search Institute is a non-profit organization that provides leadership, knowledge, and resources to promote healthy children, youth, and communities. The institute is guided by a vision of a world in which all young people are valued and thrive.

Since 1989, Search has been studying the healthy growth and development of young people in communities around the country. They identified 40 concrete, positive experiences and qualities that have a tremendous influence on young people from all walks of life. They have named these factors "Developmental Assets."
Data collected from more than 5 million children and youth from all backgrounds and situations has consistently demonstrated that the more Developmental Assets young people acquire, the better their chances of succeeding in school and becoming **happy, healthy, and contributing members of their communities and society.**

Think of the 40 Assets Framework as a **LENS** through which we can **look to identify** areas of strengths and weaknesses in our own youth—and then we can work to **BUILD** those **ASSETS**!
**EXTERNAL - positive factors in the Environment**

Relationships and opportunities that young people experience in their families, schools, and communities

- **Support**
- **Empowerment**
- **Boundaries and Expectations**
- **Constructive Use of Time**
INTERNAL-positive inner guide

Competencies and values that youth develop internally to guide behaviors and choices

- Commitment to Learning
- Positive Values
- Social Competencies
- Positive Identity
The Asset Checklist

Use this checklist to reflect on the Assets you had or have *as a teenager*, OR, *as a parent*, it can be helpful to consider your own child’s Assets.
What's Your #?
The average young person has less than half the total # of Assets.

- 11–20 Assets: 39%
- 21–30 Assets: 37%
- 31–40 Assets: 11%
- 0–10 Assets: 13%
THIS IS WHY - INCREASED # of ASSETS means a DECREASED likelihood that a young person will get involved in negative behaviors.
**This Is Why** - INCREASED # of ASSETS means an INCREASED likelihood that a young person will engage in positive behaviors.

![Bar Chart](chart.png)

- **Succeeds in school**: 8% (0-10 Assets), 20% (11-20 Assets), 38% (21-30 Assets), 58% (31-40 Assets)
- **Values diversity**: 31% (0-10 Assets), 31% (11-20 Assets), 52% (21-30 Assets), 69% (31-40 Assets)
- **Maintains good health**: 29% (0-10 Assets), 51% (11-20 Assets), 73% (21-30 Assets), 91% (31-40 Assets)
- **Exhibits leadership**: 45% (0-10 Assets), 63% (11-20 Assets), 77% (21-30 Assets), 86% (31-40 Assets)
The Assets are cumulative in their effect and it does not matter which assets they have; it is the # of Assets.

The more assets they have, the better
In Google Classroom, click on the **PADLET** category on the left side. Go into the “Sharing Assets” padlet.

- Think of all the ways in which the assets were built for you as a young person or are being built for youth today.

- In what ways are we already building assets in our classes, school and community?
Sharing Assets Padlet
Everyone's an Asset Builder

"If you can breathe, you're on the team"

- Circle 1 area of personal strength
- Check mark 1 area of personal challenge.

**You should pick 2 overall, it doesn't matter the category."
Strategies for Action

**Make It Possible**—Make asset building a part of your everyday life—the interactions that you already have as an Educator.

**Make It Simple**—Identify a simple asset-building action you can do. Start low risk.

**Make the Most of Your Available Time**—Focus on what adds value and power to your existing relationships and commitments.
Commitment Statements

Identify ways you can commit to action. Choose a few statements to complete in regards to *intentional asset building*:

- [ ] I will focus........
- [ ] I will engage........
- [ ] I will help.....
- [ ] I will pay attention to.....
- [ ] I will try.....
- [ ] I will point out.....
- [ ] I will celebrate......
The Power in Your Hands

- **THUMB:** a unique gift/asset that you could share with youth
- **INDEX FINGER:** a point you want to remember as you finish the school year
- **MIDDLE FINGER:** a goal you want to set for yourself related to asset building and relationships
- **RING FINGER:** a young person in your life with whom you want to make more of an effort to connect
- **PINKY FINGER:** a value you want to wrap around all you do
- **PALM:** what keeps you going; your passion
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Take-Aways:

- All young people need assets—as many as they can get.
- Everyone can build assets—"If you can breathe you’re on the team!"
- Relationships are key.
- Little things add up—start where you can—small steps make a big difference.
- We never stop building assets!