



Asset-Building Ideas



Below are ideas for how youth, adults, families, organizations, and communities can build assets in children and adolescents.

Ideas for Young People

1. Ask yourself what things you'd like to change in your neighborhood, then get involved with changing them.
2. Participate in at least one group, team, or sport—or find something creative that appeals to you, like theater, pottery, singing, or dancing.
3. Get to know an adult you admire.
4. Start a book club with friends.
5. Call friends and make a date to visit a hospital, treatment center, or nursing home to read to residents.

Ideas for Adults

1. Get to know the names of kids in your neighborhood and make a point of greeting them by name.
2. Challenge people who use negative stereotypes about youth.
3. Volunteer as a tutor or mentor at a nearby school or recreation center.
4. Make your home a safe haven, a place kids feel welcome and valued.
5. When you see a child or young person make a good decision, especially if it's a hard one, offer your praise and admiration.

Ideas for Parents/Guardians

1. Each day, pick an asset to purposefully nurture.
2. Think of your teens as "practicing" adults—teach them something practical, like how to change a tire on your car or fix a leaky faucet.
3. Introduce your children to other neighborhood adults and help them get acquainted.
4. Stay in contact with teachers about your child's progress, rather than waiting for report cards.
5. Pick a service project to do together, like collecting items for a food drive or delivering meals to homebound elders.

Ideas for Organizations

1. When looking for new volunteers for projects, remember to invite youth to participate.
2. Present the asset-building concept to employees, members, volunteers, or constituents.
3. Make sure employee policies encourage asset building.
4. Recognize children and young people who contribute to the community.
5. Set high standards for youth who work for you and give them as much control as possible over things that happen to them on the job.

Ideas to Mobilize Your Community

1. Talk informally with friends, family, neighbors, church members, and colleagues about assets.
2. Organize a community-wide meeting to talk about asset building. Be sure to include principals, business leaders, elected officials, and clergy.
3. Search out asset builders in your community and see what you can do to help or expand their efforts.
4. Help create or participate on a "vision team" to gather information, set priorities, and plan a community asset-building initiative.
5. Partner with another community or group actively building assets to swap ideas and share resources.

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