



WEEK #4

SEPTEMBER 20, 2009

HIGH EXPECTATIONS

Parents and teachers encourage the young

Both parents and teachers play a critical role in children's education and healthy development, and building developmental assets. Parents should talk with and listen to their children about school, assure that schoolwork gets completed, encourage their children to do their best at whatever they're doing, and offer praise for accomplishments. Teachers, as well as other caring adults can encourage young people to do their best – at school and in other activities.

The 40 developmental assets are the essential building blocks that help all youth make positive choices, and grow into confident, responsible, healthy, and caring citizens. The *more* assets young people have, the *less* likely they are to engage in risky behaviors, and the *more* likely they are to succeed in school.

What can you do to increase this Asset?

At home:

- Expect the best from your kids. When expectations are high yet still within reach, children will stretch to achieve them.
- Ask your children what they expect of themselves. Listen what they say.

At school:

- Talk with parents about expectations. Tell them what you expect from their children; ask them to share their expectations with you. Support each other.
- Design learning opportunities that challenge students with all types of learning styles and abilities.

In your congregation:

- Tell youth what you expect of them.
- Hold high expectations for all youth in your congregation, not just stars.

In your community:

- Challenge local media (TV, radio, newspapers) to spotlight the positive accomplishments of many young people, as opposed to the negative actions of a few.
- Hold high expectations for youth in the workplace whether you're an employer or a customer.

What youth can do:

- Tell your parents your hopes and dreams.
- Tell your teachers what you'd like to accomplish in their classes. Ask for support.

From *What Kids Need to Succeed* by Peter Benson, Ph.D., Judy Galbraith, MA and Pamela Espeland.
Reference Developmental Asset #16

Learn about another Asset next week!

Do you have ideas on How To Build Assets? Need More Information? Contact:

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