



The 40 Developmental Assets are building blocks for healthy, happy and engaged children. Developed by the Search Institute, the New Canaan YMCA promotes these assets which enable young people to develop into successful and contributing adults.

ASSET OF THE MONTH

#6 PARENTS INVOLVEMENT IN SCHOOLING

Research shows that youth whose parents are actively involved in their schooling, are more engaged in school. are less likely to be delinquent or drop out, and more likely to achieve higher grades and standardized test scores. Studies show that students from poor families whose parents are highly involved with their education do about as well as students from wealthier families. Parents whose schedules don't allow volunteering can still support their children's academic success through parenting, communication, and learning at home.

BE INTENTIONAL

ABOUT THE ASSETS

CONVERSATION STARTERS

Whether at the dinner table or in the car, get the conversation going...

The following discussion topics can help young people identify the ways and locations where they do, and do not, feel safe, and promote conversations about how to improve safety for themselves and others.

- What do your parents do that let you know they care about your education? What could they do to be more supportive?
- What information about school is important to share with your family? What kind of information would you prefer not to share?
- What advice would you give a family who's new to your school?
- Some workplaces have a "Shadow Day," where youth follow an employee and learn what their day is like. If you could have a Shadow Day at school where your parents followed you throughout your day, what you want them to see?

LIVE THE ASSETS

Here are tips for promoting the assets wherever you are.

- Make a point of staying in touch with your children's teachers, even if your kids aren't having problems. Most teachers are glad to communicate with you after school hours by telephone or email.
- Make sure that your kids have a clean and organized location to do their homework, and help them establish a regular schedule for schoolwork.
- Instead of asking "How was your day?" ask open-ended questions like "What was the best part of your day?" and "Did any of your classmates do anything funny?"
- Help your children maintain a positive attitude about school. Make sure they know that you will be their advocate to resolve any

Additional Resources

- **Families in Schools is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to involve parents and communities in their children's education to achieve lifelong success. visit <http://www.familiesinschools.org>.**
- **Joyce Epstein's framework for parent involvement can help administrators, teachers, and parents, provide a starting point for creating effective parent engagement at a school. http://www.csos.jhu.edu/P2000/nmps_model/school/sixtypes.htm.**

Learn more about the assets at www.searchinstitute.org

The enclosed information is provided by Project Cornerstone's Asset-a-Month program. For more information, visit www.projectcornerstone.org.