

# What do kids need to succeed?

*Why do some kids grow up with ease while others struggle? Why do some kids get involved in dangerous activities while others spend time contributing to society? Why do some kids 'beat the odds' while others get trapped?*

Many factors influence why some young people have success in life and why others have a hard time. Search Institute has identified concrete, common sense, positive experiences and qualities essential to raising successful young people known as the 40 Developmental Assets. These assets have the power to influence choices young people make and help them become caring, responsible adults.

- **Support** ~ Young people need to be surrounded by people who love, care for, appreciate, and accept them.
- **Empowerment** ~ Young people need to feel valued and valuable. This happens when youth feel safe and respected.
- **Boundaries & Expectations** ~ Young people need clear rules, consistent consequences for breaking rules, and encouragement to do their best.
- **Constructive Use of Time** ~ Young people need opportunities outside of school to learn and develop new skills and interests with other youth and adults.
- **Commitment to Learning** ~ Young people need a sense of the lasting importance of learning and a belief in their own abilities.
- **Positive Values** ~ Young people need to develop strong guiding values or principles to help them make healthy life choices.
- **Social Competencies** ~ Young people need the skills to interact effectively with others, to make difficult decisions, and to cope with new situations.
- **Positive Identity** ~ Young people need to believe in their own self worth and to feel that they have control over the things that happen to them.

Studies reveal strong and consistent relationships between the number of assets present in young people's lives and the degree to which they develop in positive and healthy ways. Results show that the greater the number of Developmental Assets experienced by young people, the more positive and successful their development. The fewer the number of assets present, the greater the possibility youth will engage in risky behaviors.



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