

Review existing programs through an asset-building lens

Assessing your asset-building actions with young people

Which asset-building actions are important for adults to build with young people? Search Institute identified a number of actions and asked young people (ages 12 to 17) to rank actions that were most important to them. Before you learn the results, assess how often you do the following asset-building actions. Check mark either *always*, *sometimes*, or *never* for each statement.

How often do you take the following actions?	Always	Sometimes	Not sure
1. Teach respect for cultural differences -Teach young people to respect the values and beliefs of different races and cultures, even when those values and beliefs conflict with your own.			
2. Encourage school success – Encourage young people to take school seriously and do well in school			
3. Teach shared values -Teach young people the same core values as other adults do, such as honesty, equality, and responsibility.			
4. Seek opinions -Seek young people's opinions when making decisions that affect them.			
5. Report misbehaviour -Tell parent(s) if you see a young person doing something wrong.			
6. Report positive behavior -Tell parent(s) if you see a young person doing something right.			
7. Provide service opportunities - Give young people opportunities to make their communities better places, such as feeding the homeless or cleaning up a park.			
8. Guide decision making – Help young people think through the possible good and bad consequences of their decisions.			
9. Ensure the well-being of neighborhood children and youth – Feel responsible to help ensure the well-being of young people in your neighborhood.			
10. Have meaningful conversations – Have conversations with young people that help adults and young people really get to know each other.			
11. Know names – Know the names of many young people in your neighborhood.			

How often do you take the following actions?	Always	Sometimes	Never
12. Pass down traditions – Actively teach young people to preserve, protect and pass down the traditions and values of your ethnic and/or religious culture.			
13. Play sports/do art with kids – Help young people spend their leisure time in supervised, constructive activities.			
14. Give financial guidance – Offer young people guidance on responsibly saving, sharing, and spending money.			
15. Discuss religious beliefs – Openly discuss your religious or spiritual beliefs with young people.			
16. Discuss personal values – Openly discuss your own values with young people.			

How did you do?

According to results from Search Institute’s Grading Grown-Ups 2002 study, young people ranked the above asset-building actions in the order in which they appear. Statement number one (1) was most important, and statement number sixteen (16) was the least important. Sixty-three percent of young people say it’s most important for adults to teach respect for cultural differences (statement #1). Only 21 percent of young people say it’s most important for adults to discuss their personal values (statement #16). The most startling result was that only three percent of young people say that most adults they know report positive behavior (statement #6). For more information on the Grading Grown-Ups study, visit www.search-institute.org.