

## Why Asset-Building?

The Developmental Assets® are 40 building blocks which are critical to positive child and adolescent development. The Developmental Assets® are measurable, evidence-based and grounded in research on child and adolescent development, risk prevention and resiliency.

Studies of more than five million young people consistently show that the more assets young people have, the less likely they are to engage in a wide range of high-risk behaviours and the more likely they are to thrive.

Assets have power for all young people, regardless of their gender, economic status, family, or race/ethnicity.

Family Assets are key qualities that help all kinds of families be strong. When families have more of these research-based assets, the teens and adults in the family do better in life.

Developmental Relationships Framework identifies 5 key strategies and 20 actions for building strong relationships with and among children and youth.

Programs, coalitions and projects based on asset-building are employing best practices in child and youth development.

### It's not about:

A prescribed program  
Being incidental  
Problems  
Troubled kids  
Just the work of professionals  
Being experimental  
Project focus  
Shifting messages  
Competition  
Quick fix

### It is about:

Positive relationships  
Being intentional  
Strengths  
All kids  
Everyone's job  
Evidence and research  
Comprehensive work  
Consistency and repetition  
Partnerships and cooperation  
Ongoing work

### Key messages

- Everyone can build assets
- All kids need assets
- Relationships are key
- Everyone has strengths
- We need to work together
- Repetition of messaging is important

Source: Search Institute® ([www.search-institute.org](http://www.search-institute.org))