What does effective asset-building look like?

YMCA Approach to Working with Children – Applying Asset-Building in Your Daily Work with Children

Assist children to develop confidence and self-esteem, resolve conflicts peacefully, skills for communicating with others, and ways to take care of their health and well-being.

How do you do it?

Ineffective

- Does not smile often
- Does not use names
- Frequently talks to other staff and volunteers, ignoring children
- Does not communicate to children about their accomplishments
- Does not encourage integration between children and others
- Ignores or sits out children who do not or cannot participate

Effective

- Smiles and laughs with children
- Uses the names of many children
- Gives children opportunities for leadership
- Communicates to children that they are proud of them
- Encourages interaction between children
- Asks children for feedback
- Ensures all children are encouraged to participate in all activities

Needs Improvement

- Uses the names of some children
- Allows children to take a leadership role or make choices if they ask
- Does not communicate to children that they are proud of them
- Indifference displayed in regards to child interaction
- Does not ask for feedback or opinions from children
- Takes little notice of those who cannot or do not want to participate

Highly Effective

In addition to the above "Effective" criteria:

- Communicates to children that they are proud of them in front of their families
- Allows children time to discover and form relationships
- Makes modifications to activities so all participants want/can participate in all activities