

# Developmental Assets

## (Search Institute)

Developmental assets are critical factors in and positive building blocks for young people's growth and development. The Search Institute identifies 40 developmental assets and groups them into two categories, each with four subcategories:

- external assets (positive experiences young people have in the world around them)
  - support
  - boundaries and expectations
  - empowerment
  - constructive use of time
- internal assets (characteristics and behaviour that reflect positive internal growth and guide choices of young people)
  - commitment to learning
  - social competencies
  - positive values
  - positive identity.

These assets can influence the choices students make and help them to become caring, competent and responsible individuals.

Schools can include developmental assets in their plans to create a positive and supportive learning environment. Teachers can incorporate various developmental assets into learning activities across the subject areas. Research indicates that developmental assets also serve as protective factors that are critical to students' resiliency, health and successes.

### Related Web site

[www.search-institute.org/assets/](http://www.search-institute.org/assets/)

### Related publications

Gemelke, Tenessa and Rita Welch. *Building Assets is Elementary—Group Activities for Helping Kids Ages 8–12 Succeed*. Minneapolis, MN: Search Institute, 2004.

Grothe, Rebecca. *More Building Assets Together: 130 Group Activities for Helping Youth Succeed*. Minneapolis, MN: Search Institute, 2002.

Taccogna, Judy (ed.). *Powerful Teaching: Developmental Assets in Curriculum and Instruction*. Minneapolis, MN: Search Institute, 2003.