

# 40 Developmental Assets® for Children Grades K–3 (ages 5-9)

Search Institute® has identified the following building blocks of healthy development—known as **Developmental Assets**®—that help young people grow up healthy, caring, and responsible.



<b>External Assets</b>	<b>Support</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Family Support</b>—Family continues to be a consistent provider of love and support for the child’s unique physical and emotional needs.</li> <li><b>2. Positive Family Communication</b>—Parent(s) and child communicate openly, respectfully, and frequently, with child receiving praise for her or his efforts and accomplishments.</li> <li><b>3. Other Adult Relationships</b>—Child receives support from adults other than her or his parent(s), with the child sometimes experiencing relationships with a nonparent adult.</li> <li><b>4. Caring Neighborhood</b>—Parent(s) and child experience friendly neighbors who affirm and support the child’s growth and sense of belonging.</li> <li><b>5. Caring School Climate</b>—Child experiences warm, welcoming relationships with teachers, caregivers, and peers at school.</li> <li><b>6. Parent Involvement in Schooling</b>—Parent(s) talk about the importance of education and are actively involved in the child’s school success.</li> </ol>
	<b>Empowerment</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>7. Community Values Children</b>—Children are welcomed and included throughout community life.</li> <li><b>8. Children as Resources</b>—Child contributes to family decisions and has opportunities to participate in positive community events.</li> <li><b>9. Service to Others</b>—Child has opportunities to serve in the community with adult support and approval.</li> <li><b>10. Safety</b>—Parents and community adults ensure the child’s safety while keeping in mind her or his increasing independence.</li> </ol>
	<b>Boundaries &amp; Expectations</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>11. Family Boundaries</b>—The family maintains supervision of the child, has reasonable guidelines for behavior, and always knows where the child is.</li> <li><b>12. School Boundaries</b>—Schools have clear, consistent rules and consequences and use a positive approach to discipline.</li> <li><b>13. Neighborhood Boundaries</b>—Neighbors and friends’ parents help monitor the child’s behavior and provide feedback to the parent(s).</li> <li><b>14. Adult Role Models</b>—Parent(s) and other adults model positive, responsible behavior and encourage the child to follow these examples.</li> <li><b>15. Positive Peer Influence</b>—Parent(s) monitor the child’s friends and encourage spending time with those who set good examples.</li> <li><b>16. High Expectations</b>—Parent(s), teachers, and other influential adults encourage the child to do her or his best in all tasks and celebrate their successes.</li> </ol>
	<b>Constructive Use of Time</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>17. Creative Activities</b>—Child participates weekly in music, dance, or other form of artistic expression outside of school.</li> <li><b>18. Child Programs</b>—Child participates weekly in at least one sport, club, or organization within the school or community.</li> <li><b>19. Religious Community</b>—Child participates in age-appropriate religious activities and caring relationships that nurture her or his spiritual development.</li> <li><b>20. Time at Home</b>—Child spends time at home playing and doing positive activities with the family.</li> </ol>

<b>Internal Assets</b>	<b>Commitment to Learning</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>21. Achievement Motivation</b>—Child is encouraged to remain curious and demonstrates an interest in doing well at school.</li> <li><b>22. Learning Engagement</b>—Child is enthused about learning and enjoys going to school.</li> <li><b>23. Homework</b>—With appropriate parental support, child completes assigned homework.</li> <li><b>24. Bonding to School</b>—Child is encouraged to have and feels a sense of belonging at school.</li> <li><b>25. Reading for Pleasure</b>—Child listens to and/or reads books outside of school daily.</li> </ol>
	<b>Positive Values</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>26. Caring</b>—Parent(s) help child grow in empathy, understanding, and helping others.</li> <li><b>27. Equality and Social Justice</b>—Parent(s) encourage child to be concerned about rules and being fair to everyone.</li> <li><b>28. Integrity</b>—Parent(s) help child develop her or his own sense of right and wrong behavior.</li> <li><b>29. Honesty</b>—Parent(s) encourage child’s development in recognizing and telling the truth.</li> <li><b>30. Responsibility</b>—Parent(s) encourage child to accept and take responsibility for her or his actions at school and at home.</li> <li><b>31. Self-Regulation</b>—Parents encourage child’s growth in regulating her or his own emotions and behaviors and in understanding the importance of healthy habits and choices.</li> </ol>
	<b>Social Competencies</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>32. Planning and Decision Making</b>—Parent(s) help child think through and plan school and play activities.</li> <li><b>33. Interpersonal Competence</b>—Child seeks to build friendships and is learning about self-control.</li> <li><b>34. Cultural Competence</b>—Child continues to learn about her or his own cultural identity and is encouraged to interact positively with children of different racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds.</li> <li><b>35. Resistance Skills</b>—Child is learning to recognize risky or dangerous situations and is able to seek help from trusted adults.</li> <li><b>36. Peaceful Conflict Resolution</b>—Child continues learning to resolve conflicts without hitting, throwing a tantrum, or using hurtful language.</li> </ol>
	<b>Positive Identity</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>37. Personal Power</b>—Child has a growing sense of having influence over some of the things that happen in her or his life.</li> <li><b>38. Self-Esteem</b>—Child likes herself or himself and feels valued by others.</li> <li><b>39. Sense of Purpose</b>—Child welcomes new experiences and imagines what he or she might do or be in the future.</li> <li><b>40. Positive View of Personal Future</b>—Child has a growing curiosity about the world and finding her or his place in it.</li> </ol>