



Asset-Building Ideas for Child-Care Providers

Each day brings new experiences in the life of a child as he or she learns new things. As children face the excitement and challenges of constant change, they look to the adults who care for them for guidance, nurture, stability, and structure. By focusing on building the 40 Developmental Assets, you help children grow in healthy, balanced ways, and you contribute to the foundation they need to be successful in life. Here's how you can be an asset builder for children:

- **Give each child one-on-one attention** at different times throughout each day.
- **Greet children and parents as they arrive**, even if you already have another child in your arms.
- **Learn about the 40 Developmental Assets and their implications** for the children you work with. Post the lists of assets for different ages and refer to them often.
- **Learn the names of family members of children in your care.** Make eye contact, smile, and call them by name when you see them.
- **Give children simple, age-appropriate activities** that encourage their independence and leadership. For example, have children take turns choosing a book to have read aloud during group reading times.
- **Limit exposure to TV.** If children watch TV, select only educational, age-appropriate programs.
- **Be consistent with the daily schedule.** Children feel more secure when activities occur at the same time each day.
- **Tell parents about asset building.** Give them the list of 40 Developmental Assets. Encourage them to post the list at home.
- **Point out positive, caring behaviors of children.** When you see a child share a toy, express your approval.
- **Keep kids physically and emotionally safe.** Make sure they feel comfortable and valued.
- **Read to children every day.** Use puppets and other ways to make reading fun.
- **Because children learn by experience, give children opportunities to see, hear, taste, touch, and smell new things.**
- **Model calm and patience.** Children need to be taught how to deal appropriately with their emotions, and they also need to see adults acting in appropriate ways.
- **When children do things you don't like or you disapprove of, tell them why you don't want them to act that way** and what you would like them to do differently.
- **Encourage children to try new activities, but don't force them.** Some children warm up to new things slower than others.
- **Avoid comparing one child with another.** Every child is unique.
- **Celebrate the characteristics that each child brings to the group.** Find ways each child can shine.
- **Remember to take good care of yourself because caring for children is hard work.**