



Developmental Assets

There are 40... How many does your child have?

Asset #13 – Neighbourhood Boundaries

This asset refers to helping to monitor and supervise the young people in your neighbourhood and naturally this is more effective in a neighbourhood where they feel cared about and already have appropriate family boundaries.

Having Neighbourhood Boundaries is one of 40 Developmental Assets; the values, skills and supports that help young people to grow up healthy, caring and responsible.

In Search Institute surveys 52% of students reported feeling that their neighbours took responsibility for monitoring them and their behavior. We may worry that what other people's children are doing is not our business or responsibility. However, many communities are returning to the belief that "it takes a village to raise a child". Young people need us to watch out for them and to have high expectations for their behaviors and choices.

Here are some tips for building this asset:

- ❖ Have a Neighbourhood Block Party, BBQ, or meeting and discuss neighbourhood boundaries. Identify three or more boundaries that people can agree on. Examples: respect people and property; report suspicious activity; supervise young people; quiet time after 11:00 p.m., talk to neighbours directly about problems, etc. Distribute a neighbourhood newsletter/bulletin and to new people moving in.
- ❖ Talk with young people about neighbourhood boundaries and their importance. As a neighbourhood encourage and support each other in pointing out boundaries to young people. For example: swearing: "We don't use that kind of language in our neighbourhood".
- ❖ Role model! Young people do what they see, so your own swearing, disrespect, intolerance, alcohol abuse, or drug use does not model healthy behavior and high expectations.
- ❖ Tell your neighbours you want them to let you know when they see your child acting inappropriately. Ask them to affirm your child's positive behaviors as well.
- ❖ Let visitors to your home know about your neighbourhood boundaries and expectations.