



Developmental Assets

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

Asset #24 – Bonding to School

There's more to school than gaining knowledge and learning skills! Did you know that when young people bond to and care about their school they are....

- ❖ More likely to achieve in school
- ❖ More likely to care about their communities
- ❖ Less likely to get involved with alcohol or other drugs
- ❖ Less likely to get involved in gangs and violent behavior
- ❖ Less likely to drop out

That is why Bonding to School is one of 40 Developmental Assets, together which are proven to help young people thrive.

Young people who feel a bond with their school have connections with teachers and other school staff as well as other students. They also enjoy and are developing a commitment to learning.

Here are some ideas for nurturing a young person's bond to school and commitment to learning:

- Set a good example – don't badmouth your child's schools, teachers, neighbors or others.
- Encourage your child to take pride in their school and remind them that when they are wearing a school t-shirt/jacket/uniform they are representing their school.
- Watch for and discourage cliques – work together to make everyone feel welcome, valued and safe.
- Be a treasure hunter in a young person – promote the interests that develop such as astronomy, poetry or history and challenge them to discover more or start a school club related to that interest.
- Host an annual School Spirit Week in which every class does something to promote and spread school spirit.
- Volunteer to tutor young people and encourage them to care about their school and learning.