



Developmental Assets

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

Asset #40 – Positive View of Personal Future

Children have a growing curiosity about the world and finding their place in it. That is why Asset #40 – Positive View of Personal Future is one of the 40 Developmental Assets and is so important to help youth find their own place in order to prevent substance abuse, depression or other social problems. Having a positive view of personal future helps support young people to grow up healthy, caring and responsible.

Talk to your children and youth about how they feel about themselves and what they envision for their future. Ask them about their goals and dreams. Help them think about resources (financial and otherwise) they will need to make these goals a reality.

Encourage your children to spend time in their high school guidance office, reading through career and college planning materials. If your teen is passionate about animals, encourage him or her to consider education or career paths that involve animals when considering post high school opportunities. There are many.

Ways to encourage a positive view of personal future could include:

- Talk to your child about the new and exciting things that will happen that afternoon, the next day, the next week and so on.
- Create a time capsule with your young child on his/her birthday. Write down some of their favorite things, such as a certain toy, book, food or game. Also ask what he/she is looking forward to in the coming year. Open the time capsule on their next birthday.
- Encourage your child to become whatever they would like to be, and discuss hopes and dreams in positive ways for them to achieve their ideas.
- Encourage your child to believe that their dreams are possible!

