



Developmental Assets

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

Asset #6 – Parent Involvement in Schooling

Starting a new school year is both exciting and overwhelming – and not just for the kids.

As a parent, you often look forward to the structured routine, but you can also feel barraged by all the requests to volunteer, be involved, and help your child do well.

It may be tempting to say, “Not this year – I’m too busy”. But your involvement is really important. The trick is to find the ways to be involved that fit for you and your family.

Research confirms that parental involvement enhances school success and motivates students to achieve. Beyond that, we know that risk-taking behaviors decrease as parental involvement increases. In fact, Parent Involvement in Schooling is so important, it is one of 40 Developmental Assets identified by the Search Institute, which helps young people grow up healthy, caring, and responsible.

For some, parent involvement means being at the school on a regular basis, helping in the classroom, serving on a committee, or coordinating a fundraising event. Not all parents are able or comfortable helping out in these ways.

The good news is that there are other ways you can be actively involved in your child’s schooling. Here are a few other tips that will help you stay involved in small ways that make a big difference:

- Create an environment at home that is conducive to homework and learning, as well as establishing homework as a priority for your child.
- Maintain ongoing communication with your child’s teachers. Call to check in every other month-before trouble appears.
- Build a web of positive relationships with teachers and others who are involved in your child’s learning.
- Attend all parent-teacher conferences. Reschedule, if necessary.