

# Building **Commitment to Learning**

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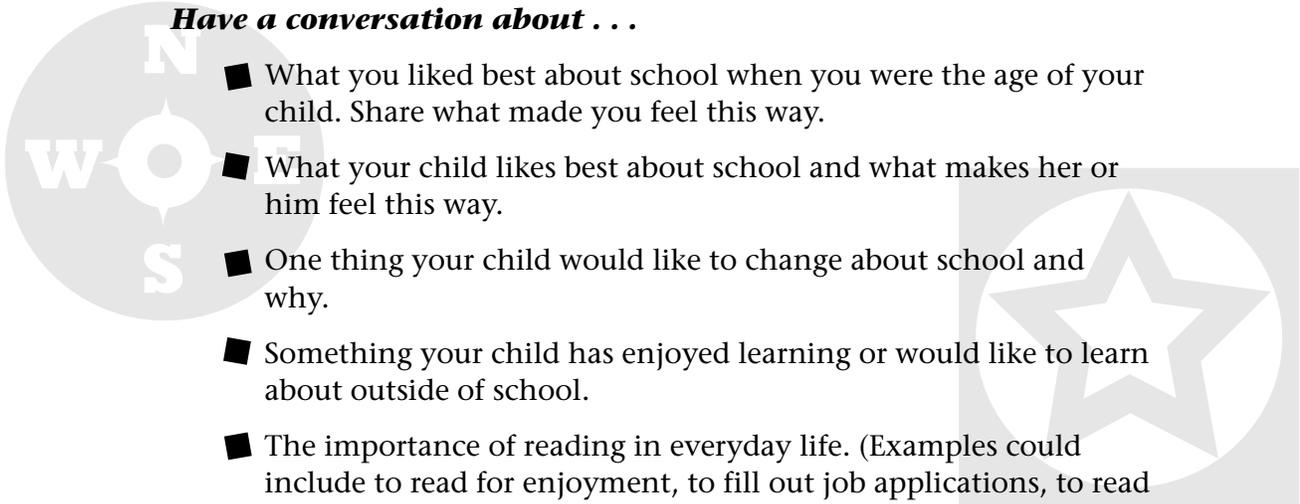
**The Commitment-to-Learning Assets** (21 to 25) are as follows:

21. **Achievement Motivation:** Young person is motivated to do well in school.
22. **School Engagement:** Young person is actively engaged in learning.
23. **Homework:** Young person reports doing at least one hour of homework every school day.
24. **Bonding to School:** Young person cares about her or his school.
25. **Reading for Pleasure:** Young person reads for pleasure three or more hours per week.

**Children and teenagers need to link learning to more than just school and to value the importance of ongoing learning. The following ideas and tips can help you build the Developmental Assets\* in the commitment-to-learning category.**

*Think about ways you can build these assets*

- Keep in mind that everyone—children and adults—has different styles of learning. Reflect on *how* as an adult you like to learn something new. Do you take classes? Ask someone to show you? Experiment and learn from mistakes? Read a manual? Share this information with your child. Talk about how different or similar your ways of learning are and how important it is to be aware of what works best for each person.
- What do you read for pleasure, for work, or for keeping up to date on events in your world? Does your child see you reading?
- Do you belong to a reading group? Consider picking a book that your child might enjoy (or is assigned to read for school), then invite young people to join the discussion about that book.



***Have a conversation about . . .***

- What you liked best about school when you were the age of your child. Share what made you feel this way.
- What your child likes best about school and what makes her or him feel this way.
- One thing your child would like to change about school and why.
- Something your child has enjoyed learning or would like to learn about outside of school.
- The importance of reading in everyday life. (Examples could include to read for enjoyment, to fill out job applications, to read directions, to be sure you are purchasing the right item, to read warning labels, to prepare for weather changes.)

***Look for and encourage your child's asset-building actions***

- Pick a time when the whole family can read. This might be reading something together if children are younger, or might be a time when all electronics are off so your family can enjoy, say, a “Reading Tuesday,” or whatever time you select. Be sure to make available the kinds of reading materials they enjoy, whether you purchase them or borrow them from friends or the library. Remember that all kinds of reading materials (magazines, books of fiction and nonfiction, comic books, cookbooks, craft books, sports pages, sports cards) “count” as children build both reading skills and an enjoyment of reading. Share funny or interesting items from your own reading.