

# Building Empowerment

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**The Empowerment Assets** (7 to 10) are as follows:

7. **Community Values Youth:** Young person perceives that adults in the community value youth.
8. **Youth as Resources:** Young people are given useful roles in the community.
9. **Service to Others:** Young person serves in the community one hour or more per week.
10. **Safety:** Young person feels safe at home, at school, and in the neighborhood.

**Children and teenagers need to feel that adults believe they have something to contribute and allow them to do so. The following ideas and tips can help you build the Developmental Assets\* in the empowerment category.**

***Think about ways you can build these assets***

- Where are places your child sees you making a difference in your community, your faith-based organization, or his or her school?
- List places you and your child could volunteer in the community, at school, or through an organization.
- Does your local newspaper or radio or television station report on positive youth activities and accomplishments? Share positive stories with your child. If you aren't seeing many positive stories, consider writing a letter to the editor or station manager, or encouraging your child to do so, suggesting some of the good things young people are doing in your community and asking them to cover young people's positive activities.

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

- Places in your community where your child feels "safe" and "valued."
- Who your child would like to help and what he or she can do to be helpful.
- What signals to your child that the community values youth. What would your child like to see?

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

- List places your child already volunteers in the community, at school, or through a faith-based, youth, or other organization, and acknowledge how much you appreciate these efforts.
- Discuss what makes a neighborhood feel like a caring place. Ask your child what he or she could do to help a neighbor. Help your child “right-size” the ideas into simple steps and help her or him follow through.

