



THE FLIPPEN GROUP

Bringing out the best in people

40 Developmental Assets Capturing Kids' Hearts

The Capturing Kids' Hearts process encourages and teaches school personnel the techniques and attitudes that support the **40 Developmental Assets**. Teen Leadership is an advanced one-day course that trains teachers to work more intensively with students in 6th grade and above. Both processes specifically support these assets and activities.

Asset #1 Family Support

- Regularly call or write parents to give positive messages about their child's attitude or progress, or to report on something the child did that deserves praise and recognition.
- During school conferences and parent meetings, focus on the positive.

Asset #2 Positive Family Communication

- Interact with students so they learn to interact with others. (Students learn how important it is to spend time with those they care about.)
- Help students develop a "feelings" vocabulary

Asset #3 Other Adult Relationships

- Have an open-door policy for students who want to talk. Be available as often as you can before and after school.
- Take time to ask students one question about themselves at every student conference or one-on-one meeting.
- Don't consider it wasted time when teachers spend time talking with students. (By being at the door to sincerely greet and welcome students, teachers make valuable connections with kids. These connections are the beginning of relationships that change student attitudes.)

Asset #4 Caring Neighborhood

- Invite students to identify ways they can promote caring in their neighborhoods.
- Assign projects that promote interaction between students and their neighbors.
- Provide opportunities for youth to serve the school neighborhood. (These are specific activities in Teen Leadership.)

Asset #5 Caring School Climate

- Learn the names of as many students as you can. Smile at them and greet them by name when you see them.
- Get to know your students on a personal level. Ask them about their interests, hobbies, passions, goals, hopes, and dreams.
- Invite their input on ways to improve the cafeteria, gym, school grounds, or media center; form student committees to address specific problems.

- Create an environment where students, teachers, administrators, staff, visitors, parents, and other volunteers feel welcome.

Asset #6 Parent Involvement in Schooling

- Personally contact each student's family at least once during the school year.
- Send notes home to parents frequently about what students are working on and learning in class.

Asset #7 Community Values Youth

- Form partnerships with community organizations through which students can volunteer and/or develop mentoring relationships with adults.
- Encourage students to get involved in community service.
- Create leadership roles for youth.

Asset #8 Youth as Resources

- Include students in school decision making. Teach youth how to positively exert their influence in community affairs.
- Empower kids and teens by teaching them how to teach others.
- Cultivate leadership skills in many students, not just a select few.

Asset #9 Service to Others

- Include service learning as part of the regular school curriculum.
- Place as much emphasis on celebrating service as on rewarding athletic or academic achievement.
- Train teenagers how to help, tutor, and befriend younger children.
- Encourage student groups to serve the school neighborhood.

Asset #10 Safety

- Make it a priority to create a safe environment in the school building, on school ground, and at school activities.
- Actively work to create an environment that accepts, welcomes, and celebrates diversity. Don't tolerate bullying or disrespect of any kind.
- Teach children how to tell adults about bad things that happen to them.
- Establish a program so students can help each other resolve conflict peacefully.
- Encourage teachers, administrators, and staff members to get to know students and watch out for their safety.

Asset #11 Family Boundaries

- Respect and reinforce family values and rules as much as possible.

Asset #12 School Boundaries

- Create an official school policy on behaviors that are in-bounds and out-of-bounds. Establish clear consequences for out-of-bounds behaviors and develop ways to affirm in-bounds behaviors. Involve students, parents, and staff in creating this policy. Review it several times a year with everyone in the school community.
- Include youth in establishing boundaries and communicating those boundaries to other students.
- Expect young people to behave responsibly. When they don't, enforce consequences fairly and consistently.

- Post your school boundaries in the classroom.
- Involve students in the consequences when responsibilities have not been observed.
- Notice and celebrate times when students follow school polices and respect school boundaries.

Asset #13 Neighbors Take Responsibility for Monitoring Young People's Behavior

- Talk with students about neighborhood boundaries. How do the students feel about those boundaries?

Asset #14 Adult Role Models

- Educate all staff about the importance of modeling positive, responsible behavior.
- Make an extra effort to notice and affirm role models who are of both genders and of all ages and races.
- Have students identify their heroes and discuss whether they are good role models.
- Focus on positive role models in history, literature and other subjects.
- Teach students to analyze role models in the media and identify ways they are positive and negative.

Asset #15 Positive Peer Influence

- Provide cooperative learning opportunities for students. Let students work together in groups. For example, students should be given opportunities to work with students from all types of groups. Students should be encouraged to support other students.
- Use class time to teach about friendship. Challenge kids to think about their own friendships. Help students to develop the skills they need to make and keep good friends.

Asset #16 High Expectations

- Tell students what you expect from them.
- Talk with parents about expectations. Let them know what you expect from their children and ask them to share their expectations with you. Support each other.
- Hold high expectations for all students, not just the stars.
- Encourage the students to take positive risks and act on their dreams and ideas. Teach the difference between positive risks and foolish risks.
- Empower kids - don't always assume that an adult needs to direct an activity. Invite kids to lead and see what happens.
- Design learning opportunities that challenge students with all types of learning styles and abilities.

Asset # 17 Creative Activities

- Develop and encourage leadership. Leadership can and frequently does occur in classes and activities other than sports.

Asset #18 Youth Programs

- Honor staff who volunteer with youth programs.
- Offer extra curricular that appeal to a wide variety of needs and interests.
- Encourage students to be involved with activities outside of school.

Asset #19 Religious Community

- Encourage respect for a variety of faiths within the community.

Asset #20 Time at Home

- Encourage students to demonstrate by their actions as well as by their words that they value their families.

Asset #21 Achievement Motivation

- Relate lesson content and curricula to real-life situations and issues.
- Train teachers to understand that teachers need to reach all students, not just the ones who are ready and easy to teach. Students learn in different ways.
- Affirm and encourage achievement in diverse areas as students discover their own interests and capabilities.
- Encourage teachers to get to know their students. Personal attention and interest from a teacher can be powerful motivators.

Asset #22 School Engagement

- Actively engage students with a variety of teaching methods. Appeal to all the senses and teach to a variety of learning styles.
- Tie classroom learning to students' real-life situations, issues, and concerns.
- Ask students to evaluate their own learning experiences. Ask what they need to feel more engaged in and excited about school.
- Make your classroom a warm and welcoming place in which to learn.

Asset #23 Homework

- Regularly assign homework and hold students accountable for completing it and turning it in.
- Make homework relevant to other parts of students' lives, families, work, hobbies, and communities.

Asset #24 Bonding to School

- Providing adults who care and show interest in students sharply increases the probability that they will bond with the school.
- Make sports, arts, drama, band, choice, and other school programs inclusive so all kids can participate.
- Don't limit school spirit to one type of activity.

Asset #25 Reading for Pleasure

- Make many types of books available in the classroom.

Asset #26 Caring

- Encourage all students to participate in service activities or service-learning classes.
- Honor and affirm school staff that are active in community service.

Asset #27 Equality and Justice

- Include equality and social justice as ongoing topics in class discussions and curricula.

Asset #28 Integrity

- Include integrity in your school's stated and posted values and expectations.
- Encourage and expect all faculty and staff to model integrity.
- Ask students to tell in their own words what integrity means to them.

- Highlight men and women in history and current events who acted with integrity. Discuss them as a class.

Asset #29 Honesty

- Include honesty in classroom stated and posted values and expectations.
- Teach honesty skills in the classroom. Have students role-play what to do and say when it's hard to tell the truth.
- Encourage and expect all faculty and staff to model honesty.

Asset #30 Responsibility

- Expect students to act responsibly. Notice and affirm them when they do act responsibly; set clear and reasonable consequences when they do not.
- Don't assume students know how to tackle large assignments. Show them how to break a large assignment into smaller parts. Individualize expectations.
- Follow through on your commitments to your students.

Asset #31 Restraint

- Give students opportunities to express their values, attitudes, and concerns.

Asset #32 Planning and Decision Making

- Empower students to plan class projects, assignments and even school-wide activities.
- Teach planning and organizational skills.
- Train staff to help students make long-term plans for continuing their education and choosing a career.

Asset #33 Interpersonal Competence

- Use teaching styles that promote interaction and friendship-building.

Asset #34 Cultural Competence

- Model acceptance and appreciation of differences. Make these stated values in your classrooms.
- Educate teachers and other staff about respecting and working with cultural differences.
- Provide activities that increase students' awareness and acceptance of differences.
- Teach students how to relate to people who are different from them.

Asset #35 Resistance Skills

- Encourage students to express their feelings, beliefs, values and opinions without fear of being put down.
- Role-play difficult situations with students so they can practice and strengthen their resistance skills.
- Teach the difference between assertiveness, aggression, and passivity.

Asset #36 Peaceful Conflict Resolution

- Include peacefulness in your classroom stated values and expectations.
- Incorporate lessons about peace and peacemakers into the curriculum.

Asset #37 Personal Power

- Reinforce the "power of one" to make a difference.
- Emphasize each student's ability to control his or her own behavior.
- Actively involve students in decision making within the school.

Asset #38 Self-Esteem

- Take students seriously. Ask for their opinions; listen to their comments and suggestions; affirm their abilities and achievements.
- Treat all students with respect. Encourage everyone to contribute to class discussions. Identify and affirm individual talents.

Asset #39 Sense of Purpose

- Give students opportunities to reflect on and shape their own future.
- Include service learning as part of the regular school curriculum.
- Encourage goal setting.

Asset #40 Positive View of Personal Future

- Create a climate of optimism.
- Encourage and support students in pursuing their dreams.