



Building the **Positive-**Values Assets

All young people need positive values to help guide their choices. Here are dideas on how to build the six Positive-Values assets for children and youth at different ages:

Ages Birth to I	 Create a caring atmosphere for babies at home, in child-care centers, and in other places. Encourage families to talk about their values while modeling and
	teaching them as their children grow.
Ages I to 2	Teach children to care for others, such as by sharing or giving hugs.Interact with children in loving, respectful, and caring ways.
Ages 3 to 5	• Teach children how to care for special things, such as toys, outfits, or plants, by themselves.
	• Encourage parents to explain their values simply to children when they see others behaving in ways they value or do not value.
Ages 6 to 11	• Have children write thank-you notes or show their appreciation in some other way whenever they receive gifts.
	• Encourage families to participate in service activities together.
	• Talk to children about specific examples of people acting on their values.
Ages 12 to 15	• Interact in caring, responsible ways with people of all ages. Encourage youth to do the same.
	• Watch television or read books together and discuss the characters' values.
	• Talk to young people about your values regarding honesty; sexual activity; alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use; and other topics.
Ages 16 to 18	• Encourage teenagers to volunteer with at least one organization.
	• Together write letters to the editor of a local newspaper or to politicians about your views on issues.
	• Talk with teenagers about how their values guide their choices and behaviors. Let them know how your values influence you.

Developmental Assets[®] are positive factors within young people, families, communities, schools, and other settings that research has found to be important in promoting the healthy development of young people. From *Pass It On! Ready-to-Use Handouts for Asset Builders, Second Edition*. Copyright © 2006 by Search Institute[®]; 612-376-8955; 800-888-7828; www.search-institute.org. This handout may be reproduced for educational, noncommercial uses only (with this copyright line). All rights reserved.