

40 Developmental Assets for Preschoolers

Search Institute has identified a framework of 40 developmental assets for children ages 3 to 5 that blends Search Institute's research on developmental assets for 12- to 18-year-olds with the extensive literature in child development.

	CATEGORY	ASSET NAME AND DEFINITION
EXTERNAL ASSETS	Support	<p>1. Family support – Family life provides high levels of love and support.</p> <p>2. Positive family communication – Parent(s) and child communicate positively. Child seeks out parent(s) for assistance with difficult tasks or situations.</p> <p>3. Other adult resources – Child receives support from at least one nonparent adult. Parent(s) have support from individuals outside the home.</p> <p>4. Caring neighborhood – Child experiences caring neighbors.</p> <p>5. Caring out-of-home climate – Child is in caring, encouraging environments outside the home.</p> <p>6. Parent involvement in out-of-home situations – Parent(s) are actively involved in helping child succeed in situations outside the home.</p>
	Empowerment	<p>7. Children valued – Parent(s) and other adults value and appreciate children.</p> <p>8. Children given useful roles – Parent(s) and other adults take child into account when making decisions and gradually include the child in decisions.</p> <p>9. Service to others – The family serves others in the community together.</p> <p>10. Safety – Child has a safe environment at home, in out-of-home settings, and in the neighborhood.</p>
	Boundaries & Expectations	<p>11. Family boundaries – Family has clear rules and consequences. Family monitors the child and consistently demonstrates appropriate behavior through modeling and limit setting.</p> <p>12. Out-of-home-boundaries – Neighbors, child care, preschool, and community provide clear rules and consequences.</p> <p>13. Neighborhood boundaries – Neighbors take responsibility for monitoring the child's behavior.</p> <p>14. Adult role models – Parent(s) and other adults model positive, responsible behavior.</p> <p>15. Positive peer interactions – Child's interactions with other children are encouraged and promoted. Child is given opportunities to play with other children in a safe, well-supervised setting.</p> <p>16. Expectations for growth – Adults have realistic expectations of development at this age. Parent(s), caregivers, and other adults encourage child to achieve and develop his or her unique talents.</p>
	Constructive Use of Time	<p>17. Creative activities – Child participates in music, art or dramatic play on a daily basis.</p> <p>18. Out-of-home activities – Child interacts with children outside the family. Family attends events with the child's needs in mind.</p> <p>19. Religious community – Family attends a religious program or service on a regular basis while keeping the child's needs in mind.</p> <p>20. Positive, supervised time at home – Child is supervised by an adult at all times. Child spends most evenings and weekends at home with parent(s) in predictable, fun, enjoyable routines.</p>
INTERNAL ASSETS	Commitment To Learning	<p>21. Achievement expectation – Parent(s) and other adults convey and reinforce expectations to do well at work, at school, in the community, and within the family.</p> <p>22. Engagement expectation – The family models responsive and attentive attitudes at work, at school, in the community, and at home</p> <p>23. Stimulating activity – Parent(s) and other adults encourage the child to explore and provide stimulating toys that match the child's emerging skills. Parent(s) and other adults are sensitive to the child's level of development.</p> <p>24. Enjoyment of learning – Parent(s) and other adults enjoy learning and engage the child in learning activities.</p> <p>25. Reading for pleasure – Child is read to by a caring adult for at least 30 minutes a day.</p>
	Positive Values	<p>26. Family values caring – Child is encouraged to express sympathy for someone who is distressed and to share his or her possessions.</p> <p>27. Family values equality and social justice – Parent(s) place a high value on promoting equality and reducing hunger and poverty and model these beliefs.</p> <p>28. Family values integrity – Parent(s) act on convictions and stand up for their beliefs and communicate and model this in the family.</p> <p>29. Family values honesty – Child learns the difference between truth and lying.</p> <p>30. Family values responsibility – Child learns that actions have an effect on other people.</p> <p>31. Family values a healthy lifestyle and sexual attitudes – Parent(s) and other adults model, monitor, and teach the importance of good health habits. Child learns healthy sexual attitudes and beliefs and to respect others.</p>
	Social Competencies	<p>32. Planning and decision-making practice – Child begins to make simple choices, solve simple problems, and develop simple plans at an age-appropriate level.</p> <p>33. Interpersonal interactions – Child plays and interacts with other children and adults. Child freely expresses feelings and is taught to articulate feelings verbally. Parent(s) and other adults model and teach empathy.</p> <p>34. Cultural interactions – Child is positively exposed to information about and people of different cultural/racial/ethnic backgrounds.</p> <p>35. Resistance practice – Child is taught how to resist participating in behavior that is inappropriate or dangerous.</p> <p>36. Peaceful conflict resolution practice – Parent(s) and other adults model peaceful conflict resolution. Child is taught and begins to practice nonviolent, acceptable ways to deal with challenging and frustrating situations.</p>
	Positive Identity	<p>37. Family has personal power – Parent(s) feel they have control over things that happen to them and model coping skills, demonstrating healthy ways to deal with frustrations and challenges.</p> <p>38. Family models high self-esteem – Parent(s) model high self-esteem and create an environment where the child can develop positive self-esteem, giving the child positive feedback and reinforcement about skills and competencies.</p> <p>39. Family has a sense of purpose – Parent(s) report that their lives have purpose and model these beliefs through their behaviors.</p> <p>40. Family has a positive view of the future – Parent(s) are optimistic about their personal future and work to provide a positive future for the child.</p>

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