

DEVELOPMENTAL ASSETS -- A CHECKLIST FOR TEACHERS

How well do your actions support development assets?

TO PROVIDE SUPPORT:

- _____ I regularly provide parents with positive feedback about their child.
- _____ I include homework that involves conversations with parents.
- _____ I interact with students in a way that models how they should interact with others.
- _____ I am available to talk to students outside the classroom; through an open door policy or by eating in the lunchroom occasionally, etc.
- _____ I regularly communicate with parents to keep them informed about what is going on in my class.
- _____ My classroom is decorated to provide a warm and nurturing environment.

TO ESTABLISH CLEAR BOUNDARIES:

- _____ In conversations with students and parents, I communicate an appreciation of their values while making my expectations clear.
- _____ My expectations for students behavior are clear and students and parents understand them.
- _____ I invite parents on class trips.
- _____ I am sensitive of the students extracurricular use of time when I assign homework and projects.
- _____ I allow opportunities for peer helpers and collaborative work among students.

TO EMPOWER:

- _____ I encourage involvement with community organizations.
- _____ I emphasize the importance of employability skills and evaluate them in my assessment of students.
- _____ I use constructivist techniques to involve students in the learning process.
- _____ I encourage students to help, tutor, and befriend other students.
- _____ I have a “no-tolerance” policy on racial, ethical, and sexual harassment, and all other debasing behavior.

TO TEACH POSITIVE VALUES:

- _____ I foster an inclusive learning environment where ALL students are encouraged to lend their strengths to benefit others.
- _____ I honor students who help others and make their efforts known.
- _____ I discuss global issues as part of my curriculum.
- _____ I include the discussion of human rights and relief efforts in my lessons.
- _____ When the opportunity arises, I highlight people who have “made a difference” to the world, based on the subject we are studying.
- _____ I use and teach effective conflict resolution techniques.
- _____ I encourage students to talk about their feelings and explore appropriate ways to express them.
- _____ I tie cultural differences and diversity to my curriculum to make students question paradigms.
- _____ I expect students to show respect for each other.
- _____ I use role-playing to teach empathy.
- _____ I make appropriate materials available to stress the importance of sexual restraint.

TO FOSTER EDUCATIONAL COMMITMENT:

- _____ I relate lesson plans to real-life situations and use authentic problems.
- _____ I teach using a variety of methods to appeal to a broad range of learning styles.
- _____ I provide a little bit of personal attention to every child at least several times during the year.
- _____ I include discussion of educational and career opportunities when I teach a subject.
- _____ I set and maintain high standards for my students.
- _____ I include study skills and strategies in my curriculum.
- _____ I recognize all kinds of achievers.
- _____ I regularly assign homework and hold students accountable for its completion.
- _____ I communicate with other teachers about homework assignments, tests, and long-term assignment in an attempt not to “swamp” students with work.
- _____ I maintain a “homework hot-line” or other method to keep parents informed about assignments.

TO ENCOURAGE THE STRUCTURED USE OF TIME:

- _____ I use music and the arts as part of my curriculum to stress their importance.
- _____ I am positive about extracurricular activities and the children know that I think these activities are important.
- _____ My curriculum encourages students to learn about and get involved with community activities and service groups.
- _____ I am aware of various religious holidays and am careful not to schedule activities or extensive homework during these times.

TO DEVELOP SOCIAL COMPETENCIES:

- _____ I encourage and support open and honest communication.
- _____ I teach (and model) the difference between aggressiveness, passivity, and assertiveness, while encouraging assertiveness.
- _____ I use projects that build decision-making skills.
- _____ I encourage students to articulate the reasons for their decisions.
- _____ I use teaching styles that promote interactions among students and encourage friendships.
- _____ I encourage students to plan their time wisely.
- _____ I use lessons, like inquiry-based labs, that require students to plan their activities carefully.

TO ADVANCE POSITIVE IDENTITY:

- _____ I discuss personal safety with my students.
- _____ I help students see how what they are doing now will effect their future.
- _____ I include positive comments in grading student work.
- _____ I critique papers, reports, and tests, constructively.
- _____ I create a climate of optimism and hope.
- _____ I am a positive role model for my students.
- _____ I encourage students to pursue their dreams.