

Messages to People Who Work with Young Children

When you speak to people who spend time with young children-e.g., child-care workers, Head Start staff, or parents of preschoolers-it's important to emphasize the connection between Developmental Assets and the healthy development of children. It's likely that if children have lots of Developmental Assets early in life, they'll be more protected from high-risk behaviors and more predisposed toward successful behaviors in their adolescence. You can point out the significance of not only building up early experiences of Developmental Assets but also instilling the idea that it's beneficial to have positive relationships with adults.

Messages specific to this audience:

- Assets can be built early in the life of a child.
- People who work with young children are in an excellent position to build these assets.

Ways that members of this audience might help build assets:

- They can say yes to toddlers more than they say no, praising them often and enthusiastically.
- They can set safe boundaries and have high expectations.
- They can take breaks and play with young children, getting down on the floor at their level.
- They can admire young children's skills, especially when the children indicate that they want someone to watch what they're doing.