

# ideas for parents

Easy Ways to Build Assets for and with Your Child

## FAST FACTS

### ASSET #32: Planning and Decision Making

*Youth are more likely to grow up healthy when they know how to plan ahead and make choices.*

**30%**

*of youth surveyed by Search Institute have this asset in their lives.\**

### What Are Assets?

*Assets are 40 values, experiences, and qualities that help kids succeed. "Planning and decision making" is one of five social-competencies assets.*

\* Based on Search Institute surveys of 217,277 6th- to 12th-grade youth throughout the United States during the 1999-2000 school year.

## Putting Planning into Action

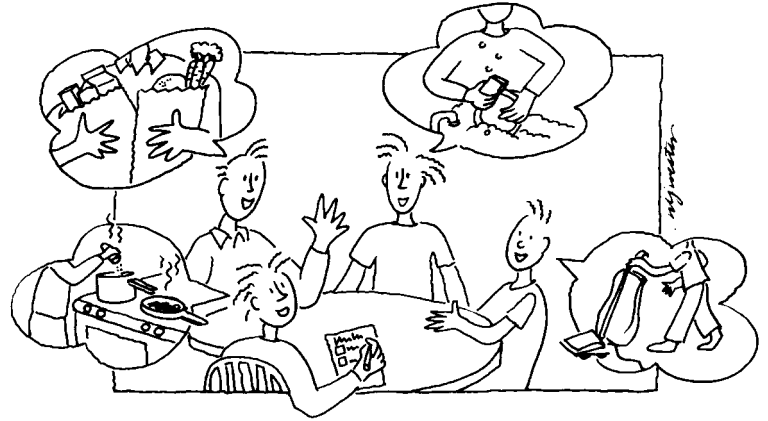
Six-year-old Tommy Tighe had a dream: He wanted to create world peace. "Ever since I was four, I had a vision that I could cause peace in the world," he said. "I wanted to make a bumper sticker that says, 'PEACE, PLEASE! DO IT FOR US KIDS, signed Tommy.'"

So he developed this plan:

1. Call about the cost of printing bumper stickers.
2. Make a plan for a loan so that the printer can get paid.
3. Have bumper stickers printed.
4. Figure out how to tell people about the bumper stickers.
5. Get addresses of world leaders.
6. Write a letter to all of the presidents and leaders of other countries and send them each a free bumper sticker.
7. Talk to everyone about peace.
8. Call the newspaper and tell them about my business.
9. Arrange for a talk at my school.

Once he decided the plan was a good one, he acted on it. Soon Tommy had a picture of Mikhail Gorbachev, former president of the former Soviet Union, that included his autograph saying, "Go for peace, Tommy." Tommy also sold a bumper sticker to former U.S. president Ronald Reagan.

He has since sold more than 2,500 of his bumper stickers and repaid his \$454 loan. Not only has he done well, his story appears in the best-selling book *Chicken Soup for the Soul*, and he also appeared on *The Joan Rivers Show*.



When Joan Rivers asked if his bumper stickers really made a difference, he replied, "So far I've had it out two years and got the Berlin Wall down. I'm doing pretty good, don't you think?"

## time together

*Three ways to strengthen your child's planning and decision-making skills:*

1. *When your child receives long-term assignments, offer to help her or him plan and make decisions in order to finish them on time.*
2. *When making family decisions, use careful thought. Make a list of pros and cons with your child.*
3. *Give your teenager full responsibility for cooking a family meal once a month. Give your younger child specific tasks in meal preparation.*

