

ideas for parents

Easy Ways to Build Assets for and with Your Child

FAST FACTS

ASSET #26: Caring

Youth are more likely to grow up healthy when they place high value on helping other people.

50%

*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. "Caring" is one of six positive-values assets.

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

Caring Begins at Home

One family decided to show an elderly widow that they cared about her by cleaning up her yard and planting flowers. The five children were so excited about the idea, they told their friends. On the day of the project, 15 kids showed up to help. The parents had to ask neighbors to help drive everyone to the woman's home.

After completing the project, the young people decided to start what they called the Kids Care Club and began planning their next event. This time, 25 kids showed up. They packed bag lunches (and decorated them) for a soup kitchen.

Since then, the Kids Care Club has been a model for other families, neighborhoods, communities, congregations, and schools. You can start your own Kids Care Club in your family with one small project. Then register your club with the National Kids Care Clubs. Write a letter explaining why you want to help others and send it to Kids Care Clubs, 975 Boston Post Rd., Darien, CT 06820. You will receive newsletters that include ideas from other young people who are doing acts of caring.

The Definition of Caring

Caring about others includes caring for a lot of different people: those in your family, neighborhood, school, community, state, country, and world. It can include caring for animals and the environment, too.



Who Cares?

According to Search Institute researchers, girls are much more likely than boys to value caring. Of the girls surveyed, 84% said helping other people was important to them, and 76% said it was important to help make the world a better place. For boys, the percentages were 66% and 62%, respectively.

Quick Tip:
A smile is a quick way to show someone you care.

time together

Three ways to help your child value caring:

1. Volunteer as a family at an animal shelter, a nature center, or a food bank.
2. Visit neighbors and extended family who live alone.
3. Spend money on a family in need instead of each other at holiday time.

