

Article #16

The 40 Developmental Assets were assessed in June 2005 using the survey *Me and My World*. Of the children surveyed in our community, 47% report that they experience the asset *neighborhood boundaries*.

Asset #13: Neighborhood boundaries—Neighbors take responsibility for monitoring young people’s behavior.

Consider this . . .

If neighbors only speak up when something bothers them, chances are the relationships they develop won’t be very positive. By first reaching out in positive ways, relationships begin to be established. This can make it a lot easier to work things out if and when there is a problem.

Try this . . .

Adults:

- Take the risk of starting a conversation with a young person or her or his parent(s).
- Host a neighborhood party.
- If you are a family with children, make a special point to get to know neighbors who don’t have children. It can be harder for those people to connect with others.
- Walk around your neighborhood and say hello.
- Ask a neighbor for a favor. Once you’ve done this, it may be easier for her or him to ask for your help when it’s needed.
- Start a neighborhood watch.

Youth:

- Bake some cookies and share them with a neighbor.
- Offer to help a neighbor with a chore.
- Ask your parent(s) to introduce you to a neighbor who seems interesting.
- Spend as much time as possible outside in your neighborhood. Say hello to people you see there.

From *Get the Word Out: Communication Tools and Ideas for Asset Builders Everywhere*.

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