

## **Asset #18**

The 40 Developmental Assets were assessed in June 2005 using the survey *Me and My World*. Of the children surveyed in our community, 79% report that they experience the asset *positive peer influence*.

**Asset #15: Positive peer influence—Young person’s best friends model responsible behavior.**

*Consider this . . .*

Some people assume that “peer influence” is negative. That’s not true at all! Many young people have lots of integrity, are good friends, and make important contributions to society. These are the kind of young people that this asset is all about.

*Try this . . .*

Adults:

- Regularly point out to young people what they have to offer as friends (such as compassion, good listening skills, or a sense of humor).
- Get to know your children’s friends. Point out things you like about them and talk with your children when you have concerns about their friendships.
- Provide safe, healthy activities for young people and their friends.

Youth:

- Think about the kind of friend you would like to be. Look for those things in others.
- Make a point of choosing your friends, rather than just letting them choose you.
- Find friends who support and accept you as you are.

- Join groups or clubs that reflect your values or help you stick with decisions you've made.

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

Copyright © 2003 Search Institute, 800-888-7828, [www.search-institute.org](http://www.search-institute.org). To learn more about our local initiative, contact: Pulaski Community Partners Coalition, [www.aboutpcpc.org](http://www.aboutpcpc.org), 980-3228