

Article #28

The 40 Developmental Assets were assessed in June 2005 using the survey *Me and My World*. Of the children surveyed in our community, 72% report that they experience the asset *Homework*.

Asset #23: Homework—Young person usually hands in homework on time.

Consider this . . .

Homework helps with a lot of things: developing study skills, encouraging independent exploration of topics and information, retaining information learned at school, and engaging in classroom projects and discussion. Homework at its best is part of the routine, not a last-minute rush to meet minimum requirements.

Try this . . .

Adults:

- Be clear about homework assignments and deadlines.
- Assign homework that is meaningful and helpful.
- Check in with youth each day. Encourage them to keep up with their homework so that they don't leave it all until the last minute.
- Use flashcards and other games to support what young people are learning in school.
- Help establish homework routines that work.
- Put together a list of neighbors who are willing to help with homework.
- Send homework helpers to places youth already hang out (parks, libraries, cafes, and community centers).
- Establish a weekly homework gathering at someone's home or another comfortable, quiet location. Serve snacks.

- If a young person is struggling with homework, ask a teacher for help.

Youth:

- Make homework your first priority.
- Ask for help when you need it—talk with teachers, family members, a tutor, or look on the Internet for homework help Websites.
- Start a study group with friends.

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

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