

The 40 Developmental Assets were assessed in June, 2005 using the survey *Me and My World*. 55% of the children surveyed in our community report that they experience the asset **Positive Family Communication**.

Asset #2: Positive family communication—Young person and her or his parent(s) communicate positively, and young person is willing to seek advice and counsel from parents.

Consider this . . .

Only one-third of youth surveyed by Search Institute say they experience this asset. Many things can get in the way of positive communication, but there is one easy step toward opening up the channels: make it a priority.

Try this . . .

Adults:

- Set aside time for communication, such as a family meeting, a family dinner with no distractions, or a “car talk.”
- Share stories about what life was like for you as a young person (dating, school, family relationships, and so on). Talking about these things may let your children know that you have an understanding of what life is like for them. It may also encourage them to talk about personal issues in their own lives.
- Ask young people what they think about important issues in your family life, in the community, or in the world.

Youth:

- Ask your parents for advice sometimes; they'll love to know that you care what they think.
- If you're having trouble talking with your parents, try writing a letter or asking a trusted friend to be present when you need to have a serious conversation.
- If you have siblings who seem to communicate well with your parents, ask them for tips or advice.

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

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