

## Article #35

The 40 Developmental Assets were assessed in June 2005 using the survey *Me and My World*. Of the children surveyed in our community, 89% report that they experience the asset *Honesty*.

### **Asset #29: Honesty—Parent(s) tell the child it is important to tell the truth.**

*Consider this . . .*

There are a number of reasons why honesty is the best policy, including the following: Lies generally lead to more lies (to cover the previous ones); lies are difficult to keep track of; people learn to trust those who tell the truth; and being honest leads to dealing with issues head-on before they have a chance to fester and grow.

*Try this . . .*

#### Adults

- Make it easy for young people to be honest by keeping sensitive information confidential and doing what you can to avoid making young people feel uncomfortable when they tell the truth “even when it is not easy.”
- Be honest with yourself first; it will likely lead to honesty with others.
- Model honesty.
- Never punish a young person for being honest.
- Talk with young people about being honest in ways that are caring and helpful, not hurtful or malicious. Make it clear that some information, true or not, is not theirs to share.

#### Youth:

- Be honest with your friends.
- Make it easy for others to be honest by keeping sensitive information confidential and doing what you can to avoid making people feel uncomfortable when they tell the truth “even when it is not easy.”
- Respectfully confront people who lie to you or about you. Let them know that you believe honesty is important.

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, 980-3228 or visit our website [www.aboutpcpc.org](http://www.aboutpcpc.org)