

The 40 Developmental Assets were assessed in June, 2005 using the survey *Me and My World*. 62% of the children surveyed in our community report that they experience the asset Other adult relationships.

Asset #3: Other adult relationships—Young person receives support from three or more nonparent adults.

Consider this . . .

No parent can do it all. Everyone—youth and adult—needs support from others. Through intergenerational relationships youth learn different perspectives and know that they are supported and believed in. Parents benefit, too: They may get support they need, see their children through someone else's eyes, or simply get a break.

Try this . . .

Parents:

- Invite caring, responsible adults to be part of your children's lives (informally or through a mentoring program).
- Recognize that these relationships can at times feel threatening, but that they are very important to your children's development. If you are very uncomfortable with a particular relationship it may be a warning sign that something is not right, but if you are simply worried that someone else could replace you, don't be. Young people need many, many positive relationships with adults, but the role of parents is unique. In fact, relationships with other adults can actually strengthen the parent-child bond.
- Establish a routine of getting together with your children and your friends (and their children if they have them).

All adults:

- Volunteer to be a mentor through a program such as Big Brothers Big Sisters.
- Look for intergenerational activities to get involved in (such as in congregations or community centers).

Youth

- Get to know a teacher you admire.
- Look into signing up for a mentoring program through your school or youth center, or ask your parent(s) to help you find one.

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

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