

Article #41

The 40 Developmental Assets were assessed in June 2005 using the survey *Me and My World*. Of the children surveyed in our community, 67% report that they experience the asset *Cultural competence*.

Asset #34: Cultural competence—Young person has knowledge of and comfort with people of different cultural/racial/ethnic backgrounds.

Consider this . . .

Some people think of being tolerant of differences as being respectful of them. But the cultural competence asset refers to more than just tolerance. It means recognizing that there are a lot of different kinds of people in the world and your life will be richer (and probably easier) if you learn about and connect with people who look, speak, dance, eat, believe, or are otherwise different from you.

Try this . . .

Adults:

- Introduce young people to people from many different backgrounds. When people can identify with individuals, they are less likely to make assumptions about entire groups.
- In classrooms, community centers, congregations, or homes, share food, art, music, literature, or ideas from different cultures.
- As a family, class, or group, attend multicultural events.

Youth:

- Read books or magazines by and about young people from different cultures than your own.
- Learn about your own culture heritage.
- Check out Web sites sponsored by different cultural groups.
- Talk with your friends and your parents about racism: what it is, why it happens, what can be done about it.

- Attend multicultural events.

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Pulaski Community Partners Coalition, 980-3228 or visit our website www.aboutpcpc.org