

## Article #21

The 40 Developmental Assets were assessed in June 2005 using the survey *Me and My World*. Of the children surveyed in our community, 49% report that they experience the asset *Creative activities*.

**Asset #17: Creative activities—Young person spends three or more hours per week in lessons or practice in music, theater, or other arts.**

*Consider this . . .*

This asset refers specifically to time spent in music, theater, or other arts outside of the school day. It is the asset fewest young people have. Barriers to involvement in the arts can include cost, its not being valued as a priority, and few opportunities for “experimentation” without commitment.

*Try this . . .*

Adults:

- Add the arts to family time by visiting a museum, attending a play or concert, or simply listening to music on the radio.
- Sing together.
- Support a school music, theater, or arts program by attending concerts, plays, recitals, or art shows.
- Plan a neighborhood or community art fair.
- Volunteer with a children’s art program through a neighborhood group, community center, parks and recreation department, or other organization.
- Create a “junkyard band” (lots of people playing rhythms with saws, hammers, tin cans, whatever they can find).

Youth:

- Set up an arts area where you live. Stock it with construction paper, paint, glue, string, scissors, and other supplies.
- Learn something about the arts and creative forms of expression by reading books, joining a club or group at school, or by surfing the Internet.
- Share your artistic abilities with your community (paint a mural, join a community band or orchestra).

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