



41 DEVELOPMENTAL ASSETS® FOR INFANTS (AGES BIRTH TO 12 MONTHS)

Search Institute® has identified the following building blocks of healthy development for infants that blends the research for 12- to 18-year-olds with extensive literature on child development. We call these **Developmental Assets®**.



EXTERNAL ASSETS

SUPPORT

- 1. Family support:** Family life provides high levels of love and support.
- 2. Positive family communication:** Parents communicate with infants in positive ways. They respond immediately to infants and respect their needs.
- 3. Other adult relationships:** Parents have support from three or more adults and ask for help when needed. Infants receive additional love and comfort from at least one adult other than their parents.
- 4. Caring neighbors:** Infants experience caring neighbors.
- 5. Caring out-of-home climate:** Infants are in caring, nurturing environments outside the home.
- 6. Parent involvement in out-of-home situations:** Parents are actively involved in communicating infants' needs to caretakers and others in situations outside the home.

EMPOWERMENT

- 7. Community values infants:** The family places infants at the center of family life. Other adults in the community value and appreciate infants.
- 8. Infants are given useful roles:** The family involves infants in family life.
- 9. Service to others:** Parents serve others in the community.
- 10. Safety:** Infants have safe environments at home, in out-of-home settings, and in the neighborhood. This includes childproofing these environments.

BOUNDARIES & EXPECTATIONS

- 11. Family boundaries:** Parents are aware of infants' preferences and adapt the environment and schedule to suit infants' needs. Parents begin setting limits, as infants become mobile.
- 12. Out-of-home boundaries:** Child care settings and other out-of-home environments have clear rules and consequences for older infants and consistently provide all infants with appropriate stimulation and enough rest.
- 13. Neighborhood boundaries:** Neighbors take responsibility for monitoring and supervising infants' behavior, as they begin to play and interact outside the home.
- 14. Adult role models:** Parents and other adults model positive, responsible behavior.
- 15. Positive peer interaction and influence:** Infants observe siblings and other children interacting in positive ways. They have opportunities to interact with children of various ages.
- 16. Appropriate expectations for growth:** Parents have realistic expectations for infants' development at this age. Parents encourage development without pushing infants beyond their own pace.

CONSTRUCTIVE USE OF TIME

- 17. Creative activities:** Parents expose infants to music, art or other creative aspects of the environment each day.
- 18. Out-of-home activities:** Parents expose infants to limited but stimulating situations outside the home. The family keeps infants' needs in mind when attending events.
- 19. Religious community:** The family regularly attends religious programs or services while keeping infants' needs in mind when attending events.
- 20. Positive, supervised time at home:** Parents supervise infants at all times and provide predictable, enjoyable routines at home.

INTERNAL ASSETS

COMMITMENT TO LEARNING

- 21. Achievement expectation and motivation:** Family members are motivated to do well at work, at school, and in the community, and model their motivation for infants.
- 22. Infants are engaged in learning:** Parents and family members model responsive and attentive attitudes at work, at school, in the community, and at home.
- 23. Stimulating activity and homework:** Parents encourage infants to explore and provide stimulating toys that match infants' emerging skills. Parents are sensitive to infants' dispositions, preferences, and level of development.
- 24. Enjoyment of learning and bonding to school:** Parents enjoy learning and model this through their own learning activities.
- 25. Reading for pleasure:** Parents read to infants in enjoyable ways every day.

POSITIVE VALUES

- 26. Family values caring:** Parents convey their beliefs about helping others by modeling their helping behaviors.
- 27. Family values equality and social justice:** Parents place a high value on promoting social equality, religious tolerance, and reducing hunger and poverty while modeling these beliefs for infants.
- 28. Family values integrity:** Parents act on their convictions, stand up for their beliefs, and communicate and model this in the family.
- 29. Family values honesty:** Parents tell the truth and convey their belief in honesty through their actions.
- 30. Family values responsibility:** Parents accept and take personal responsibility.
- 31. Family values healthy lifestyle:** Parents love infants, setting the foundation for infants to develop healthy attitudes and beliefs about relationships. Parents model, monitor, and teach the importance of good health habits, and provide good nutritional choices and adequate rest and playtime.

SOCIAL COMPETENCIES

- 32. Planning and decision making:** Parents make all safety and care decisions for infants and model safe behavior. As infants become more independently mobile, parents allow them to make simple choices.
- 33. Interpersonal skills:** Parents model positive, constructive interactions with other people. Parents accept and are responsive to how infants express their feelings, seeing those expressions as cues to infants' needs.
- 34. Cultural competence:** Parents know and are comfortable with people of different cultural, racial, and/or ethnic backgrounds, and model this with other children.
- 35. Resistance skills:** Parents model resistance skills through their own behavior.
- 36. Peaceful conflict resolution:** Parents behave in acceptable, nonviolent ways and assist infants in developing these skills by helping them solve problems when they're faced with challenging or frustrating circumstances.

POSITIVE IDENTITY

- 37. Personal power:** Parents feel they have control over things that happen in their own lives and model coping skills, demonstrating healthy ways to deal with frustrations and challenges. Parents respond to infants, so infants begin to learn that they have influence over their immediate surroundings.
- 38. Self-esteem:** Parents create an environment where infants can develop positive self-esteem, giving infants appropriate, positive feedback and reinforcement about their skills and competencies.
- 39. Sense of purpose:** Parents report that their lives have purpose and demonstrate these beliefs through their behaviors. Infants are curious about the world around them.
- 40. Positive view of personal future:** Parents are hopeful and positive about their personal future and work to provide a positive future for infants.
- 41. Positive cultural identity*:** Youth feels comfortable with and proud of their identity, including but not limited to ability status, body size, ethnicity, faith/religion, family status, gender, gender expression, gender identity, immigration status, language, race, and sexual orientation.

*Project Cornerstone established this asset through local community input.