

Positive youth development is the process of helping young people become successful youth and adults. Positive youth development is a philosophy as well as an approach that builds upon young people's assets and their strengths, enabling them to possess a higher threshold of resistance to temptations and unhealthy behaviors.

There are certain strategies and activities that need to be implemented to create positive environments in which to engage youth. Families, schools, neighborhoods, churches and community organizations can play a role in building positive environments and experiences for youth.

- Participation of youth in positive activities and the formation of close attachments to family, school and community have been linked to positive outcomes in research studies.³⁹
- Developmental Assets: Research from the Search Institute⁴⁰ has identified positive factors that help young people make good choices and grow up to be competent, caring and responsible adults. They can be grouped into eight categories:

Support – young people need to experience support, care and love from their families and many others. They need organizations and institutions that provide positive, supportive environments.

Empowerment – young people need to be valued by their community and have opportunities to contribute to others. For this to occur, they must be safe and feel secure.

Boundaries and Expectations – young people need to know what is expected of them and whether activities and behaviors are “in bounds” or “out of bounds.”

Commitment to Learning – young people need to develop a lifelong commitment to education and learning.

Social Competencies – young people need skills and competencies that equip them to make positive choices, to build relationships and to succeed in life.

Positive Values – young people need to develop strong values that guide their choices.

Positive Identity – young people need a strong sense of their own power, worth and promise.

Constructive use of Time – young people need constructive, enriching opportunities for growth through creative activities, including but not limited to youth programs, congregational involvement and quality time at home.

HP 2010 Objectives:

There is no objective related to this issue.