

“The Developmental Assets are 40 research-based, positive qualities that influence young people’s development, helping them become caring, responsible, and productive adults. Based in youth development, resiliency, and prevention research, the Developmental Assets framework has proven to be effective and has become the most widely used approach to positive youth development in the United States and, increasingly, around the world.”

(<http://www.search-institute.org/>)

The Children, Youth and Family Master Plan (CYFMP) utilizes the Developmental Assets Survey as a periodic measure for how well our agencies and families are providing asset-rich supports, services and opportunities for La Plata County youth. The CYFMP also teaches our community about the assets and how to utilize them in program development, parenting and in our daily lives.

Please join our community partners in promoting the Assets framework, by forwarding the following “Asset of the Month” in your newsletters, communications and interactions with youth and families. For a full list of the 40 Assets go to: <http://www.search-institute.org/what-we-study/developmental-assets>

Developmental Asset of the Month:

Asset #1. Family support: Family life provides high levels of love and support.

It comes as no surprise that children and youth who report that their family life provides a high level of love and support are most likely to become caring, responsible and productive adults.

Essential Question: What can you do personally, or what programs can you support that help our families provide love and support?

Tip of the Day: “Think about when *not* to say anything. Well-timed silence in the form of listening---rather than lecturing or changing the topic can help your children turn problems into learning experiences on their own.” (Your Family, Using Simple Wisdom in Raising Your Children. Search Institute)

Resource: The La Plata Family Centers Coalition offers on going parenting classes. You can find the at www.lpfcc.org.

For more information about the CYFMP, contact Susan Hakanson, 382-6212 or susan.hakanson@co.laplata.co.us.