

## **Asset of the Month Project**

### **La Plata Children, Youth and Family Master Plan (CYFMP) Community Partners**

CYFMP will send out an asset each month with an essential question, tip of the day and resource to community partners to insert in their organization's newsletters. This top section in black is an introduction with the monthly piece being in blue below.

"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 placing 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 #6. Parent Involvement in schooling – Parent(s) are actively involved in helping young person succeed in school.**

**Essential Question:** *What action will I take this year to positively support my child's education?*

#### **Tip of the Day to Increase Parental Involvement:**

##### **For families...**

- Make a point of staying in touch with your children's teachers, even if your kids aren't having problems.
- Instead of asking "How was your day?" ask open-ended questions like "What was the best part of your day?" and "Did any of your classmates do anything funny?"

##### **In youth programs...**

- Make sure that programs are not scheduled at the same time as school events.
- Provide childcare on evenings such as Back-to-School Nights when parents are expected to attend without their children.

##### **For school administrators...**

- The benefits of parent engagement apply to children from all backgrounds. Parent engagement is typically highest in middle-class families where the parents were successful in school. Schools should create thoughtful outreach and support strategies that shows respect and value for the contributions of all children and families.

**For teachers...**

- Create homework projects that involve the entire family. Be sure to include all supplies as well as clear, easy-to-understand directions in the primary language spoken at home as well as in English.

**Resource:**

Joyce Epstein's framework for parent involvement can help administrators, teachers, and parents understand the different ways that families can be involved and provide a starting point for creating effective parent engagement at school. The framework and links to information about practices, challenges, and results can be found at

[http://www.csos.jhu.edu/P2000/nnps\\_model/school/sixtypes.htm](http://www.csos.jhu.edu/P2000/nnps_model/school/sixtypes.htm).

**Source: Project Cornerstone** <http://www.projectcornerstone.org/>

For more information about the CYFMP, contact Susan Hakanson, 382-6212 or [susan.hakanson@co.laplata.co.us](mailto:susan.hakanson@co.laplata.co.us).