

40 Developmental Assets for Infants

Search Institute has identified a framework of 40 developmental assets for infants (birth to 12 months) that blends Search Institute's research on developmental assets for [adolescents](#) with research on healthy child development.

Asset Category	Asset Name	Asset Definition
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. Parents 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 neighborhood	Infants experience caring neighbors.
	5. Caring out-of-home climate	Infants are in caring, encouraging 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 children	The family places infants at the center of family life. Other adults in the community value and appreciate infants.
	8. Children 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 and 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	Childcare 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 observation	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.
	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. Children 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	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	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 children, 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 observation	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 observation	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 observation	Parents know and are comfortable with people of different cultural, racial, and/or ethnic backgrounds, and model this to infants.
	35. Resistance observation	Parents model resistance skills through their own behavior.
	36. Peaceful conflict resolution observation	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. Family has 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. Family models high 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. Family has a 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. Family has a positive view of the future	Parents are hopeful and positive about their personal future and work to provide a positive future for children.