



# Asset of the Month

October Asset Category: Support (External Asset)

## **October Asset: #6. Parent Involvement in Schooling**

In a healthy community parents are actively involved in helping young person's succeed in school. They talk with their kids about school, sometimes assist with schoolwork, and attend school events.

(Only 29% of youth surveyed believe that they have this asset in their lives.)

**What youth say about Support:** "Never give up on me." "Try to understand me."

### **Parent Involvement in Schooling**

- Spend focused, one-to-one time with each child every day.
- Speak with your child's teachers in person at least once during the school year. Call to check in every other month.
- Regularly ask your kids what they are learning in school. Offer to help with homework in appropriate ways. *Example:* It's okay to help a child plan a special paper, and to be available for advice, suggestions, or rides to the library. It's *not* okay to write the paper.
- When you receive a school calendar, enter important dates and events onto your family calendar. Make attending school events a family priority.
- Attend workshops for parents on how to get involved and stay involved in their children's schools.
- Volunteer to do what you can to help out at your child's school.
- Parents tend to be most involved with their child's education during elementary school and less involved during middle and high school. Make it a point to stay actively involved for as long as your child is in school.

### **Parenting Tips & How-to-live the Asset of the Month:**

#### ***Ages Birth – 5***

- Cheer children on as they master new skills, and be available to comfort and guide them when they get frustrated.
- Encourage children's thinking abilities by asking them questions and exposing them to new situations.

#### ***Ages 6 – 11***

- Follow their passions and interests, no matter how different they are from your own.
- Encourage children to develop more skills in areas in which they are interested.
- Answer children's questions. If you don't know, admit this and find out the answers together.

#### ***Ages 12 – 18***

- Make your home a safe haven where young people can-and like to-hang out.
- Encourage young people to be both independent and able to work with others.
- Find out what the teenagers you know or go to school with care about, and help them advocate for their causes.
- Teenagers: help your friends succeed. You could slip a note in their lockers if they have a big test coming up. Or make a special sack lunch for a friend who is extremely busy or stressed.

**Family Discussion Topic/Activity:** Make having at least one meal together as a family every day a top priority. It's one of the best chances you'll have for connecting, catching up, and showing care.

\* Visit <http://www.familyresourcesheboygan.org>. Learn more about parent involvement in schooling and the other 39 assets. This website also lists other great websites for parents, youth group leaders, teachers, etc. with tools, handouts, etc.

### October Events

- October is the international “**Walk to School**” month. This event is being coordinated in Sheboygan County on Wed. Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>. Plan on participating and/or getting involved with your school. For more information and event/activity ideas go to [www.walktoschool.org](http://www.walktoschool.org). Multiple assets are being built with events like this.
- October is **Appreciate Teens Month** go to the Family Resource Center web site above for more info.
- October is **National Book Month** – help build asset #25 *reading for pleasure* –only 22% of teens say they have this asset in their lives.
- October 24<sup>th</sup> is **Make a Difference Day** – national day of community service. This is a great service learning opportunity for your youth group, family, or neighborhood.

**\*Please forward this information to co-workers, clients, families, and other contacts.**

\*Please respond with feedback, ideas for upcoming assets of the month, etc., or if your organization would like to be listed as a resource to: [ysports@sheboygancountymca.org](mailto:ysports@sheboygancountymca.org) or [erikfrc@excel.net](mailto:erikfrc@excel.net) . Also contact us if your organization would like a 40-asset presentation or training.

**\*Next Month's Asset of the Month:** Category: Positive Values: #26 Caring. If your organization has a potential asset building event or information you would like to share for the November “Asset of the Month” notice please respond by the 20<sup>th</sup> of October.

**\*Upcoming months:** December: #36 Peaceful Conflict Resolution. January: #17 Creative Activities.

*The Asset of the Month is a campaign is an effort under the Healthy Community/ Healthy Youth Initiative:*

