



Asset of the Month

November Asset Category: Boundaries and Expectations (External Asset)

November Asset: #12 School Boundaries

In a healthy community school provides clear rules and consequences.

(52% of youth surveyed believe they have this asset in their lives).

Knowing what's expected, and what's not, helps children create, learn, and grow. Instead of holding children back, limits keep them safe and secure. When they know who to count on and behave, children can concentrate on developing and learning new skills.

All the assets in this category slide between 6th and 12th grade. The asset with the largest drop is asset #12 School Boundaries. While 70% of 6th graders report having this asset, only 34% of 12th graders do.

Parenting Tips & How-to-live the Asset of the Month: School Boundaries

Birth to age 5 (Out of Home Boundaries)

-Use distraction as the main method of setting boundaries for infants. If an infant's toy is inappropriate, give him something else to play with. If he keeps getting into an unsafe place, move him to a different area.

-Get down on the floor regularly and check the environment from the infant's point of view. Are boundaries clear and safe?

-Look at why a toddler may be acting inappropriately before you discipline her. Is she hungry, tired, over stimulated, frustrated with a toy?

-Realize that toddlers have limited memories. That's why it's important to repeat boundaries (often several times a day for many weeks).

-Create appropriate consequences for out-of-bounds behavior. For example, if a preschooler throws toys, have him pick up the toys and apologize to his playmates. Say, "It's important to play nicely with our friends. Please say you're sorry for throwing toys." If he doesn't want to do this take away a privilege until he does.

-Help preschoolers use words instead of actions to express their wants, needs, and feelings.

Ages 6 - 11

-Learn about school rules and boundaries. If you aren't sure what they are ask a school administrator or a classroom teacher.

-Give children opportunities to role-play situations and discuss appropriate and inappropriate ways to respond. For example, if a child sees another child being bullied, what will the child do? An inappropriate response would be to join in. An appropriate response would be to get away from the situation as quickly as possible and get help from an adult.

Ages 12 - 17

-Volunteer at your school. If you are not able to volunteer, visit, check the school web site, read the student handbook (encourage your teen to get involved on a committee to review the student handbook). See for yourself what the school boundaries are – and whether students respect them.

-Teens:

- welcome your school's boundaries. You have the right to attend a school where boundaries are clear, appropriate, and respected by everyone. A school with boundaries is a school where students are free to learn. A school without boundaries – or one where boundaries are ignored or violated – is a school where learning takes second place to survival.

- Be a role model for other students. Positive peer pressure can be a powerful force. Etiquette can go a long way toward creating a school climate where everyone respects school boundaries.
- Never pressure other students to violate school rules/boundaries.

-Boundaries should be consistent from school to school. It helps when students hear the same message, no matter what school in the district they attend.

FACT: Teens want stronger school boundaries!

According to a recent nationwide survey, 79% say they would learn more if schools enforced being on time and completing homework. Seven in 10 public school teenagers say there are too many disruptive students in their class, and 8 in 10 say that removing unruly teens from regular classes would help them learn more. Half of the teenagers surveyed say that drugs and violence are serious problems in their schools.

In another survey 58% of students in grades 6 – 12 believe that school officials should have the right to search a student’s locker for drugs or weapons without permission, and 75% think schools should ban clothing with gang symbols.

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

November HCHY Events/Announcements

We are lining up trainings and presentations – please contact Erik Wagner (892-6706) or Mike Burns (451-8000) to reserve a training or presentation for your youth group, parent group, service club, students, staff, etc –**there is no cost for trainings/presentations and the time spent will be well worth it.**

***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 or erikfrc@excel.net .

***Next Month’s (December) Asset of the Month:** #25 Reading for Pleasure. Category: Commitment to Learning.

Sponsor: Van Horn Automotive Group

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

