

Healthy Communities / Healthy Youth Initiative

Asset of the Month – School Addendum: April 2012

**#29 Honesty**

**Weekly Announcement / Activity**

**Week of April 2**

***Custom License Plates***

Focus: Youth create messages about assets.

**Activity:** Ask youth if they have ever seen customized or “vanity” license plates and if they can recall any of them. Give some examples of personalized messages you have noticed to jog their memories. Challenge pairs of youth to create messages that promote the importance of the six values named in the Positive Values assets (26 – 31). Explain that real license plates can use a combination of only 9 letters and numbers, so youth must find creative ways to share their messages. Share an example such as “LUV2SK8” instead of “Love to Skate.” Give the pairs some time to brainstorm before they write their messages on the paper license plates you have provided. Encourage each pair to design at least 2 license plates. When everyone has finished writing, have each pair show its license plates to the larger group. Have each pair ask the other youth if they can tell what the combinations of letters and numbers mean and if they can guess the related asset, and then have pairs explain their thinking behind the message they created.

Discussion Questions:

- Of the license plates created, which are your favorites? Why?
- Why should we promote positive values?
- How else do people show what they value?
- How do you show your values?

**Week of April 9**

***Ideals School Boundaries***

Imagine yourself as the one who makes all the final decisions about the rules and consequences at your school. Write what you think would be a fair and clear rule and consequence for each of the areas below. Pair up with another person to compare your ideas and discuss what seems fair.

- Stealing at school
- Fighting at school
- Bringing a weapon to school
- Using or selling drugs
- Skipping a class
- Cheating
- Sexual harassment
- Racial discrimination

## **Week of April 16**

### ***Fudging the Truth***

Focus: Youth discuss small lies.

**Activity:** Have youth get into groups of 3 or 4. Say: "Telling the truth gets trickier when we know it might hurt someone's feelings. It's often easier to tell small lies when we want to be polite." Explain that youth are to discuss within their groups what they would do in each of the situations you list on the chalkboard or newsprint. List situations such as these:

- A friend who is upset because he's gained weight asks you if you think he's gotten fat.
- A classmate has been making a pottery bowl and has redone it 10 times. It still looks crooked to you, and she wants to know if you think it's now straight.
- A friend bought a new jacket that he just loves. You think it looks awful. Your friend wants to know what you think.
- A relative you like gives you a sweater for a gift. It fits, but you really don't like the style.

Discussion Questions:

- How difficult is it to tell the truth in these situations? Why?
- Do you always tell the truth? Why or why not?
- Is it easier to be honest with some people than others? Why?
- If you value honesty does it mean you should never lie? Why or why not?
- What if you lie and feel guilty about it? What should you do about it?
- What does it mean to value honesty?

## **Week of April 23**

### ***To Tell the Truth***

Focus: Youth debate whether a lie can ever be the best course of action.

**Activity:** Print this statement on a sheet of newsprint in large letters: "Honesty is not always the best policy." Form 2 teams by asking each youth to roll the die. Those who roll from 1 to 3 are on one team, and those who roll from 4 to 6 are on the other team (teams do not have to be equal in size).

Give each team a roll of crepe paper and tell them to use it to create some form of "team uniform." Each team member must wear the team color.

Post the chart that displays the statement of debate. Ask one team to defend this statement, thinking of reasons and examples to prove why it is good advice. Assign the other team to argue against this statement, thinking of reasons and examples to prove why it is bad advice.

Give teams time to prepare their arguments and decide who will be first speakers and second speakers for their teams.

Use a coin toss to determine which team will go first. Listen to both first speakers, then both second speakers. Time carefully so that each speaker gets only 2 minutes.

Discussion Questions:

- Is there a difference between "withholding the truth" and "telling a lie"? Why or why not?

- If a 10 year old child asked you if it's ever okay to tell a lie, what would you say? Are there different degrees of honesty (for example, lying to spare someone's feelings)?
- Why is honesty one of the 40 developmental assets?
- How important is honesty for the welfare of a society or a community?