



RAISING HIGHLY
**CAPABLE
KIDS™**

Communities Empowering
Families for Success

PARTICIPANT'S
GUIDE

SESSION 3

Stand By Me



3 | STEP 1

JOIN THE CLUB

Kids don't become healthy, caring, responsible adults on their own. They need assistance, encouragement, discipline, and training. They need the input of people who care about them. They need a group of adults and peers who are invested in their success.

They need support.

Of the 40 Developmental Assets the Search Institute identified, six of them fall into the category of **SUPPORT**:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1 Family Support | 4 Caring Neighborhood |
| 2 Positive Communication | 5 Caring School Climate |
| 3 Other Adult Relationships | 6 Parent Involvement in Schooling |

These are the Assets you'll be exploring in this session.





During the digital slide presentation, you'll discuss the following story.

"Have you seen this boy?"

Caroline held up the flier she'd been given with Armando Jimenez's sixth-grade school picture on it. The old woman in Apartment 4C studied the photo and shook her head. "Nope. Sorry. Haven't seen him."

The truth is, neither had Caroline. She didn't know Armando Jimenez from Adam. But when she saw the crowd of volunteers gathered in the courtyard of her apartment complex—when she saw Armando's mother crying hysterically and being comforted by her friends and family—Caroline knew she had to help. She had to find out why Armando hadn't come home from school today. She had to help bring him home safely.

Shortly after Caroline left Apartment 4C, she got word that Armando had been found. He'd gone to a friend's house to play video games without telling anyone.

Caroline breathed a sigh of relief. But then she started thinking about what she would do if she were in Mrs. Jimenez's place. Who would she turn to for help? Who would be her support system? Who would be there for her son—not just in emergencies, but in the ups and downs of daily life?

All of a sudden, Caroline felt very much alone.

Here's a place to take notes on the rest of the digital slide presentation.



Family Support

Some people say it takes a village to raise a child. Maybe that's true; maybe it's not. But if an entire village isn't necessary, a family certainly is.

Family support is the foundation of a child's life. With it, a child feels secure, sturdy, inspired to build something on it. Without family support, a child is unstable, vulnerable, less likely to stand tall.

Family support can take many different forms, depending on the circumstances. For example, you could support your child by:

- *encouraging her to step out of her comfort zone*
- *offering comfort when he messes up*
- *showing unconditional love when he messes up badly*
- *cheering her successes*
- *standing by her during her failures*
- *voicing your confidence in him*
- *making sure you're physically present for important moments in her life.*

One thing your child should be able to count on in this world is the support of his family.

3 | STEP 3

REACTION TIME

Do You Agree?

Fill in the circle to show how well you relate to the following statements:

Most members of my family are accessible—not just physically, but emotionally.

☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ Disagree Somewhat ☐ Agree Somewhat ☐ Strongly Agree

We enjoy conversations with each other.

☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ Disagree Somewhat ☐ Agree Somewhat ☐ Strongly Agree

We have a genuine interest in each other's lives.

☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ Disagree Somewhat ☐ Agree Somewhat ☐ Strongly Agree

We feel comfortable opening up to one another.

☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ Disagree Somewhat ☐ Agree Somewhat ☐ Strongly Agree

My child can talk to me about anything.

☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ Disagree Somewhat ☐ Agree Somewhat ☐ Strongly Agree

Won't You Be My Neighbor?

When the residents of a neighborhood pull together, take an interest in each other's lives, and look out for one another's welfare, they create a safe haven for kids. They give kids a sense of belonging. They create the kind of environment kids will remember and appreciate their entire lives.

If you live in such a neighborhood, cherish it. Count your blessings. Work hard to maintain it.

If you don't live in that kind of neighborhood, take the initiative to create such a place. As safety and good sense allow, get to know the people around you. Strike up conversations that go beyond surface topics such as sports or weather. Find out who your neighbors are, where they come from, and what motivates them. Organize block parties and neighborhood celebrations. Create a sense of community.

3 | STEP 4

WORTH A TRY



Fill in the circle to show how well you relate to the following statements:

Trustworthy adults (in addition to myself) are contributing to my child's life.

☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ Disagree Somewhat ☐ Agree Somewhat ☐ Strongly Agree

When my child needs extra confirmation, encouragement, or praise from another trustworthy adult, she or he knows where to go.

☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ Disagree Somewhat ☐ Agree Somewhat ☐ Strongly Agree

When my child needs advice or guidance from another trustworthy adult, he or she knows where to go.

☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ Disagree Somewhat ☐ Agree Somewhat ☐ Strongly Agree

When my child knows what I'll say about a given subject but wants a second opinion or different perspective, he or she knows where to go.

☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ Disagree Somewhat ☐ Agree Somewhat ☐ Strongly Agree



Outside of your home, your child spends more time at school than anywhere else. The Search Institute found that parental involvement at school is a key to a child's future success. Why not start this week to get more involved?

The climate of your child's school will have a tremendous impact on his well-being. Your goal as a parent, then, is to make sure that climate is as positive as possible.

Admittedly, a parent can do only so much to initiate that kind of climate change. But what you can do may be crucial. Start by involving yourself in school activities as much as you can. Volunteer in your child's classroom. Get to know his teacher—and others he comes in contact with. Talk to staff members about your child. Help them get to know him.

The more teachers, administrators, bus drivers, and other students you involve in your child's life, the more productive his school experience will be.

If you can carve time from your busy schedule to serve as a room parent, chaperone field trips, or work as a volunteer in some other capacity in your child's school, you'll find it has a positive impact not only on your child's attitude toward school, but also on your relationship and communication at home.

- First, involvement at school gives you a chance to meet your child's teacher, to get the scoop on his academic progress, and to collect some tips for helping him at home.
- Second, the more time you spend at your child's school, the quicker you'll be able to put names with faces when she comes home with stories about what happened that day. You'll have common ground for conversations.
- Third, when you see firsthand the way your child interacts with other kids—and the way she's treated by them—you'll be able to offer better, more specific advice on building friendships and standing up for oneself.

