Increasing the asset-building power of programs and practices

This is a tool to help you examine your programs through an asset lens. It can be an inventory – a starting point for you to take stock of your efforts. Under “Program or practice,” list formal (peer-mentoring program) or informal (staff greets children and youth by name every morning) programs or practices, identify which assets you are intentionally building, then list ways to make them even more meaningful. This is a great conversation starter for teams. Here’s a sample of what it might look like:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program or practice</th>
<th>Assets promoted</th>
<th>Ways to increase asset-building potential</th>
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| Staff greets children/youth by name every morning | Other adult relationships, Caring climate, Safety, Adult role models, Bonding, Caring, Self-esteem | Ask a question  
Engage in conversation  
Comment on positive behavior  
Be warm and welcoming |
| Peer-mentoring program                     | Caring climate, Children as resources, Service to others, Positive peer influence, Bonding to school, Caring | Block Grade 11 lunch with Grade 9 lunch so they can interact  
Give a sum of money to mentors and ask them to work together and build a budget of how to spend it  
Discuss clear boundaries and expectations  
Practice life skills together, such as cooking |
| Catch kids doing it right                  | Caring climate, Caring, Fosters relationships                                 | Send them a note about it  
Say, “Thanks for doing that – you are a very caring person.” |
| Anger management group                     | Other adult relationships, Adult role models, Positive peer influence, high expectations, Youth programs, restraint, Interpersonal competence, Personal power | Involve family members  
Help find support for youth at school  
Provide opportunity to explore creative activities and outlets  
Stay involved after program ends |
| Arrive to school on time                   | Caring neighborhood, School climate, Parent involvement in schooling, School boundaries, High expectations, School engagement, Responsibility | Principal greets parents in the morning  
Teachers greet students in hallways  
Principal asks parents for help  
Give parents tips on how to make their morning smoother  
Offer free apples – first-come, first-served  
Play music in hallways  
Investigate parking lot safety |