

## Libraries as Positive Developmental Settings

BENEFITS ZONE	FEATURES	DANGER ZONE
Physical space is safe; youth feel comfortable and welcome; building is open weekends and evenings.	<b><i>Physical and Psychological Safety</i></b>	Physical hazards are present; youth feel unwelcome; building hours are inconsistent.
Some spaces and activities are designed with teens' needs in mind; activities managed consistently with mutual respect for youth and adults.	<b><i>Appropriate Structure</i></b>	Spaces and activities are too restrictive (e.g., not allowing for groups to meet, talk); activities are inconsistent, unclear or change unexpectedly.
Designated areas are available for youth to interact with peers; youth feel supported by staff.	<b><i>Supportive Relationships</i></b>	Youth do not have opportunities to interact with peers; youth feel ignored or not supported by staff.
Youth are encouraged to join groups and activities; programs, activities and materials reflect youth interests.	<b><i>Opportunities to Belong</i></b>	Youth are excluded from activities; programs, activities and materials do not reflect youth interests.
Library staff have high expectations of youth and encourage and model positive behaviors.	<b><i>Positive Social Norms</i></b>	Library staff allow negative behaviors to go unaddressed or make some teens feel unwelcome, rather than helping them understand expectations.
Youth-focused programs and activities are challenging and based on youth input; youth are encouraged to take active roles in the overall functioning of the library.	<b><i>Support for Efficacy and Mattering</i></b>	Youth input is not considered; activities are not challenging; youth are not offered leadership roles.
Staff help youth identify interests and opportunities to develop and practice skills in the library and the community.	<b><i>Opportunities for Skill Building</i></b>	Youth do not have opportunities to develop and practice skills in areas of interest.
Library offers opportunities for families; homework help is available; space is available for youth and community meetings and activities; library works with schools and maintains information on local resources.	<b><i>Integration of Family, School, Library and Community Efforts</i></b>	Library does not offer opportunities for family activities; homework help is not available; library does not partner with schools and community organizations; no information on local resources available.
Library offers information on health and social service resources, helps assess options, may make referrals; transportation, snacks, small stipends are available for special programs.	<b><i>Basic Care and Services</i></b>	Library is not equipped to make social service referrals; snacks, transportation are never available.

This chart was excerpted from *Public Libraries as Partners in Youth Development: Lessons and Voices from the Field*. The Forum for Youth Investment, 2003. Available on the Forum's Web site at [www.forumfyi.org/Files/PLPYDreport.pdf](http://www.forumfyi.org/Files/PLPYDreport.pdf).



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