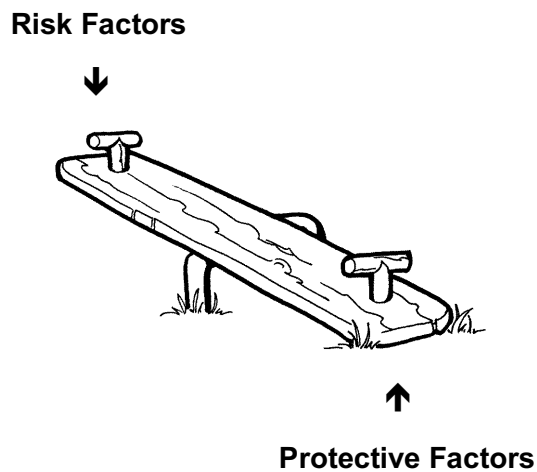


RISK FACTORS VS PROTECTIVE FACTORS



Studies show that young people having more protective factors tend to do better in life, whereas young people with more risk factors are more likely to have long-term problems. It's like sitting on a teeter-totter. The person on the protective factor side gets the greatest benefit and reward.

When young people have opportunities to participate in family, school or community activities, and receive positive rewards for their good work, they begin to develop a sense of ownership and accomplishment. David Hawkins, Ph.D., researcher at the University of Washington, says that the formation of strong bonds to family, school and community decreases the likelihood that kids will form early attachments to peers who are using substances. And isn't that what every parent wants?

Positive Development Model

- *Promote bonding to family, school, community, and positive peers*
- *Define a clear set of norms about use (family beliefs and rules about safe behavior)*
- *Teach skills needed to create healthy relationships*
- *Provide recognition, rewards and reinforcement for newly-learned skills and behaviors*