

What Strengths Aren't

- **Just anything positive.** For example: Jeff helps his mother around the house. Or, Michelle used to never go to school, but now she's attending three days a week.
- **A reason to ignore the issue that brought the youth to your attention.** For example: Johnny stabbed his sister three times, but he's good at art.
- **The same as goals.** For example: Brittany wants to take guitar lessons.
- **Just a list of things you like.** For example: Judy likes to listen to music.
- **Staff thinking or doing something nice.** For example: Staff buying a youth an ice cream cone for getting good grades.
- **Staff just doing their job.** For example: Putting the youth into drug and alcohol treatment.
- **"Polyanna" thinking.** For example: Phillip is such a nice young man, I'm sure he'll just stop acting like this. (or, Youth are naturally good. If you encourage them and build their self-esteem, they'll behave well.)