



Big Sky is an interesting place to raise your children. Very homey, safe and small. You know everyone it seems wherever you go in town; whether it's the bank, grocery store, post office, restaurants, the ski hill or even hiking and biking on the trails. You run into people you know and who know you and your story. Our kids grow up with a [strong sense of community](#). If you haven't already, this is the year to start talking to your children about where they see themselves being happy in [college](#) or a future job. What environment will be comfortable and foster continued growth. Where can they see themselves taking healthy risks where they feel challenged, and passionate about their learning, but also supported. We don't want our children, when they step their foot out of our door into their new world, to be shocked by the anonymity of starting fresh. Having those conversations with your children now about what feels comfortable and ways to create their own community in larger settings will help your child to start thinking about what their goals are and help them to focus their search for college and their [career](#). This is the time to do it, so you can start thinking about internships and volunteer experience in areas of interest.

The teachers notice in their juniors, a greater capacity to pay attention, get their work done, enjoy learning, and inhibit social behaviors in favor of academic learning. There continues to be a wider gap in maturity between female and male students, where the females show more maturity, but we all know the males will catch up eventually. In addition, the teachers notice greater pressure socially in the area of dating. Here are some ideas on [teaching your child about healthy relationships](#).

Finally, it will be important to encourage your student to build strong working relationships with their teachers, as they will be the people they go to for a recommendation or letter of reference.

For more on developmental stages and parenting information, contact your Thrive Parent Liaison, Lori Swenson at lswenson@bssd72.org or 995-4281.