

STRAIGHT TALK



FOR PARENTS

curriculum GUIDE



‘STRAIGHT TALK’ FOR PARENTS

Helping Parents Build Drug-Free Families





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it starts with **YOU**

AS A PARENT, YOU HAVE A POWERFUL INFLUENCE ON YOUR CHILDREN.

They look to you, at an early age, more than anyone else in their lives, to help them make healthy choices. By communicating with them about the harmful effects of using drugs, you can help them “choose not to use”. Actions are as important as words. Set a positive example; be a good role model; get involved in your children’s lives. Know their friends; know where they are going and what they are doing. Set clear expectations and enforce them. Talk early and often about drugs.



NOT MY KIDS!

If you think your children won’t try drugs, alcohol or tobacco, think again.

The number of 12-to-17 year olds who expect to try illegal drugs is estimated at 9.5% (NSDUH, 2012). More than half of all middle school kids have used alcohol, and the percentage increases with each grade (NSDUH, 2012).

The average age of a child who tries alcohol, drugs or tobacco, is between 11 and 13.

Teens are being pressured more and more to try drugs, in order to be cool and fit in with their peers.

While prescription pain relievers are believed to be safe, low risk and non-addictive, they are easy to get, extremely addictive and found to be an introduction to heroin use in nearly 100% of cases. In fact, 56% of teens say, they have gotten prescription drugs from their parents’ medicine cabinets (PATS, 2012).

Additionally, over-the-counter (OTC) drugs and inhalants are also viewed as low-risk, contrary to their actual danger.

HERE ARE A FEW FACTS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW:

Needles are no longer a deterrent to heroin and other drugs since purer forms can now be injected, smoked sniffed/snorted (Drug Enforcement Administration & Department of Education, 2012).

Children are utilizing prescription drugs at “Trail Mix parties”, where assorted pills are mixed in a bowl and randomly taken.

Synthetic drugs are being made and are called “designer drugs”. The important thing to remember with these is that they are always changing and you never know what you’re

going to get, which makes it very dangerous. Examples of synthetic drugs are: Synthetic marijuana (also known as spice and K2), bath salts, and synthetic salvia (an herb in the mint family).

All night dance parties (raves) often held at under-21 clubs, incorporate the use of Ecstasy (commonly known as Molly).

Kids are abusing over-the-counter (OTC) cough syrups, namely Robitussin/Dextromethorphan (DXM), to get high. The new trend is spinning the bottle to make the DXM rise to the top, and then drinking it.

Cigars are often emptied of tobacco and filled with marijuana.

The animal tranquilizer, Ketamine, also known as “Special K” is commonly snorted or smoked.

The more you know about drugs and alcohol, the better prepared you will be to help your children stay drug free.

FAMILY IMPACT

If, as a parent, you use illegal drugs, are a heavy drinker or tolerate substance abuse, your children are more likely to use drugs. The risk further increases if you involve your children in this behavior by asking them to light your cigarette or get you a drink. Children of drinking parents are less likely to see drinking as harmful and more likely to start drinking earlier. Make sure the example you set sends the right message.

It is a known fact that children of substance abusers are more likely to become addicted themselves, if they begin using drugs and alcohol. Research indicates that addiction is hereditary.

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a child
who tries
alcohol is
twelve.

Poor family management practices, such as parents failing to monitor their children, lack of clear expectations of behavior and excessively

SPEND TIME WITH YOUR FAMILY.

severe or inconsistent punishments have all been shown to increase the risk of drug abuse.

This information isn't meant to blame or finger point. It's meant to bring attention to the importance of communication. Kids will LISTEN to their parents. If YOU, as a parent have the information that could save your child's life, why wouldn't you want to use it?

WHAT CAN YOU DO AS A PARENT?

as a parent, you play the most important role in your children's lives, not friends, media, or school

As a parent, you play the most important role in your children's lives.

Your views and behaviors impact your kids' views and behaviors. Your job begins with teaching your children to make the right choices.

Spend time with your family. It's one of the best ways to ensure your children are headed in the right direction. Communicate with your kids. Ask questions and be involved. Let your kids know you are willing to talk and to

listen. It's never too early to start talking with your kids about what interests them. Teens who talk with their parents on a regular basis are much less likely to use drugs and alcohol.

When it comes to drugs, be clear with your children. Tell them you don't want them using drugs, including alcohol and tobacco. Teach them the dangers of using and abusing drugs, and other substances. Teenagers who have learned about the risks of drugs from their parents are much less likely to try them than teens that learned about drugs outside the home, from peers.

Don't worry you're giving them the wrong idea by introducing the topic of drugs. You are letting them know about potential dangers and helping them make right choices.

Additionally, an attitude that using drugs and alcohol is 'okay' places children at higher risk for continued use. While children may have an anti-drug attitude in elementary school, it can shift in middle school when they become more accepting and want to "try it just once to see how it feels."



IT STARTS EARLIER THAN YOU THINK

Children in middle school generally view alcohol and marijuana as relatively harmless, socially acceptable substances. 11% of 8th graders have used alcohol in the last month and their use increases with each grade level. Currently, 57% of all teens have used alcohol within the past year, which is a 10% increase from 2008. (PATS, 2012). In 2012, almost half of teens (45 percent) have used marijuana in their lifetime. With recent legalization of marijuana, teens' attitudes toward the drug are that it's acceptable. In states where marijuana has already been made legal, statistics are showing higher use and abuse, in teens. Prescription drug abuse has increased 33% since 2008 (PATS, 2008). One in four teens has misused or abused a prescription drug at least once in their lifetime. Over-the-counter (OTC) and inhalant abuse continues to be a problem. 11% of teens surveyed have abused inhalants, yet 66% of those same teens believe inhalants cannot hurt them or kill them. (PATS, 2008).

WHAT'S THE PRESENT ATTITUDE TOWARD DRUG USE?

The following information was obtained from the Partnership Attitude Tracking Study (PATS) of 2012:

One in four teens believe that using prescription drugs to get high, is safer than using street drugs.

Alcohol is the most widely abused substance among teens, while marijuana is the most abused illegal drug.

One in five teens has abused prescription drugs before the age of 14.

Kids are influenced by pop culture, advertisements and a variety of media sources.





IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO HELP YOUR KIDS SORT FACT FROM FICTION.

Children are experimenting with alcohol and drugs at earlier ages than ever before; 8 and 13 years old respectively. They show curiosity about them even earlier than that! So the sooner you start talking to them about drugs and alcohol, the better prepared they will be to make the right decisions. You'll feel better about it too.

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TALKING about drugs



TEACHABLE

GUIDELINES TO
HELP MAKE YOUR
CONVERSATIONS MORE
EFFECTIVE:

PROVIDE INFORMATION.
Age appropriate information is an important thing for children to have in order to process information about drugs and alcohol. Start with ways they can keep their bodies strong and healthy. As your children grow, include talks on how drugs can hurt them or even kill them on just the first try.

ROLE PLAY.
Role play on how to say NO. It's difficult to say no, especially to your friends. Help your children to discover ways to make it easier to say no. Let them know it's okay to make you the "heavy" and that they can put the blame on you.

OUTLINE
Outline your position on drugs and alcohol clearly. Explain that the only drugs they are allowed to take are those prescribed by a licensed doctor or given by you when they are sick. Note that the legal age of drinking is 21 years old in Pennsylvania and that if they are caught drinking, they can go to court, juvenile detention and/or will have to go to special

programs about alcohol abuse. Make sure to explain to them how this will affect their social life (time for friends, sports or even how their friends now view them because they have gotten into trouble with the law). Additionally, YOUR example must reflect your position. You must show a responsible use of alcohol and prescription drugs, and you must refrain from recreational drug use.

PROMOTE INDEPENDENCE.
Let your kids know it is okay to act independently. Children will often try drugs because of peer pressure or out of curiosity. Be sure they know it is okay to make a choice that's different from the group.

ENCOURAGE CHOICE.
Help your children gain confidence in making decisions by including them in normal everyday decision-making. When they are faced with making a decision about trying drugs and alcohol, they will have had practice in decision making and it won't be as difficult for them

Teach your children to follow the rules. Establish a policy appropriate for their age and clearly explain the consequences they will face if they break the rules.

LISTEN.
Listen carefully to your children's concerns and feelings. When you listen, your kids feel comfortable talking to you and are more likely to stay drug-free.

TEACHABLE MOMENTS

In order to build a healthy dialogue with your children, you have to help them understand how to listen. One of the best ways to do this is by example. Here are some helpful hints:

- DON'T**
- Interrupt or put words in their mouths. Let them explain their thoughts in their own words.
 - Think about what you want to say while they are talking to you.
 - Think twice about stopping by a party to make sure there is an adult there supervising the kids.
 - Make empty threats or let your child off the hook if he/she breaks the rules.
 - Impose harsh or unexpected consequences for broken rules.
 - Be afraid to ask where they are going, for how long and with whom.

- DO**
- Learn to listen patiently.
 - Look your child in the eyes. Be interested and pay attention to what they're saying.
 - Make time to be alone with your children. Take a walk, have breakfast together, or play a game.
 - Let your children speak. Give them a chance to say what they want to say without interruption.
 - Ask their opinion, even if it is something ordinary.
 - Acknowledge what your kids are saying and respond respectfully.





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WHY do children use drugs?



THERE ARE COUNTLESS REASONS WHY CHILDREN USE DRUGS: PEER PRESSURE, REBELLION, ACADEMIC PRESSURES, EASY AVAILABILITY, LOW COMMITMENT TO SCHOOL, THE DESIRE TO HAVE FUN AND FEEL GOOD, FITTING IN, FAMILY MEMBERS DOING IT, AND MORE.

Here below are the five (5) most common reasons why kids begin drug use, and key steps you can take to help prevent your children from trying drugs.

1. TO FEEL GROWN UP.

To a child, being “grown up” means having freedom, independence and the ability to make personal decisions. Being “grown up” means you can eat and drink anything you want.

Because children like to imitate adults, it is important that you set the right example. Be a good role model; if you drink, do so responsibly. Remember that you need to allow your kids to grow up. By giving independence and some freedom, you can actually help deter them from experimenting with drugs and alcohol. Their sense of greater independence helps them feel mature.

2. TO FIT IN AND BELONG.

The desire to ‘fit in’ and belong is a natural part of growing up. For many kids, it’s the most important part of growing up. Kids want to be liked by their peers. They often turn to alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs to try and fit in, overcome anxiety, or gain the courage to talk to other kids.

As a parent, you can help your kids deal with peer pressure. Be supportive, be involved, and offer guidance on how to handle social situations and help your children build relationships. Most importantly, let them know you don’t want them using alcohol, tobacco, and drugs. They value your opinion, even if they don’t want to admit it.

3. TO RELAX AND FEEL GOOD.

Young people today have a lot of issues to deal with: gangs and violence, changing family structures, teen pregnancy, HIV and AIDS, easy access to drugs, tobacco and alcohol, and an

uncertain future. Children turn to drugs and alcohol to help them forget many of these stresses.

As a parent, you can help your kids deal with stress by teaching them to make wise, health-conscious decisions and to just relax and be a kid. Show them love and support; let them know you care and allow them to express their feelings and concerns. Explain to them how exercise of any kind will help them relax. Set goals based on their ability.

4. TO TAKE RISKS AND REBEL.

Taking risks is also an important part of growing up. Pushing limits with parents and other adults is often part of the experience. Kids often try these substances as a way to prove they can handle them and act like grownups – even though they really cannot and are not.

You can help by talking to your kids about the pros and cons of risk-taking. Ask them what risk-taking means to them and help them to set the appropriate limits. This may include outdoor programs, sports, religious or social, emotional and intellectual stimulation.

5. TO SATISFY CURIOSITY.

Children are bombarded with messages about alcohol, tobacco and drugs. They see these messages on TV, radio, the Internet, music videos, and phones. They are everywhere. The messages seem to be telling the kids, “If you drink and do drugs, you fit in, and you are cool”.

Get involved with your kids, watch TV with them and talk about what is being shown. Check out the websites your kids visit and explore the sites together. It’s not invading their privacy, it’s protecting them and providing information and choices.

All this will lead to reinforcing your position of zero tolerance to drugs, alcohol and tobacco. Help them find other avenues and activities that will satisfy their curiosity and move them away from the curiosity of experimentation.

A MORE DETAILED LOOK AT INFLUENCING FACTORS

Sadly, the 5 reasons we have just listed above are the tip of the iceberg. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, researchers have identified over 50 risk factors that might put someone at risk for substance abuse.

These risk factors are found at all levels- individual, family, peer group, and community

– and include things like having too much free time, weak family structures, peer or social pressures, and the glamorization of substance abuse in the mass media. Knowing these risks can be helpful, but they are by no means definitive indicators of present or future substance abuse. The fact is, a lot of kids face many of these risk factors, sometimes happening all at the same time, and **never even try drugs.**

So, as a parent, you must deal with your children’s situations and states of mind on a case-by-case basis. What stresses out your child may not be the same factor or issue that affects another child. You need to concentrate on your children and your situation.



Zero tolerance means participating in any of the following is strictly prohibited: use of drugs or alcohol, or underage drinking. No exceptions.

the desire to fit in and belong is a natural part of growing up.





BEING A GOOD ROLE MODEL FOR YOUR CHILDREN IS AN ESSENTIAL SKILL THAT YOU CAN NEVER START TOO EARLY OR PRACTICE TOO OFTEN.

The following section provides key tips appropriate to each stage in your child's development and growth.

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being a **ROLE MODEL**



**GETTING THE FACTS RIGHT
DRUGS HARM THE
COMMUNITY.**

They encourage crime, make everyday life more dangerous and lower the general standard of living.

They result in physical and behavioral problems by occupying the attention of young people who would otherwise become effective student tutors or volunteers in the community and productive individuals.

It's also valuable – not only in regard to drugs and alcohol, but in general – to help your teenager understand that the perceptions he or she often holds may be inaccurate, especially if

developed from the views of friends and peers.

Children understandably learn a lot of what they know or believe from their friends and peers. Research has shown that teens in particular tend to be far more confident in their understanding of ‘the facts’ than reality suggests. Put another way, they may think that they know much more than they really do – or they may believe that their perceptions are much more accurate than they really are.

As a result, a great way to work with your teenager is to ask your child what he or she knows. Recognize and show appreciation for what they do know accurately, but be precise and thorough in pointing out the differences between myth and reality. This is particularly important when teens look at drugs such as

marijuana or heroin, both of which some teens often think can be relatively harmless under the ‘right’ circumstances. In reality, today’s pot is usually far more potent than that found in the past, and is much more likely to be laced with poisonous chemicals or other drugs. Heroin, contrary to popular belief, is equally addictive and destructive whether the user snorts or shoots up.

Another area of importance to the discussion of myths vs. realities is that of tobacco use. Historically, tobacco use becomes socially acceptable among many young people during teenage years. Don't hesitate to emphasize the negative effects of tobacco use that impact how kids perceive themselves now – such as bad breath, smelly clothes and hair, and various forms of cancer that could strike at any time. If you have a child who has picked up smoking – whether as a private or social activity – commit to helping him or her quit now, and let him or her know that you are there no matter what.

Lastly, remember this: Children of all ages need praise and encouragement. Even older teens respond well to positive expressions of love, concern, trust, respect and pride in what they do. They especially like being considered role models for their younger siblings, cousins or even the younger siblings of their friends. This positive reinforcement motivates them to continue to make good choices that help them form healthy habits that result in long-lasting self esteem and self acceptance, which helps them to achieve greater success in life.

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**THE VERY BEGINNING:
PRESCHOOL YEARS**

Clearly, they are not ready to grasp many of the details of substance abuse yet. But they can absorb and use skills that help them make good choices later on.

The idea is to base what you teach on things they already understand, such as...

FOOD They already know what they like and don't like. Ask them why they do or don't like certain foods, or have them list their favorite foods and flavors. Then explain to them, in simple terms, how making good choices about what they eat and drink helps them stay healthy and grow.

TIME Nothing is more valuable than making time, every day, for preschoolers. Play with them. Talk with them. Listen and watch them, and learn who they are and what they like to do.



VALUES Set forth a few, very simple rules. Tell them you want them to tell the truth, avoid fighting, share their toys, and be fair with other when playing games. These simple rules set a solid foundation of trust.

INSTRUCTIONS When appropriate, show your preschoolers the right way to do things, and be available to answer questions about what they don't understand.

HELP WITH FRUSTRATION Nobody's perfect, and we can't expect preschoolers to be that way. Allow children to learn from their mistakes, and show them their mistakes don't make them any less lovable to you.

FREEDOM OF CHOICE Even at preschool age, it helps to let children practice making choices about which clothes to wear, which toys to play with, and the like. This will help to strengthen their sense of self-worth and self-determination.

CLEARLY STATED “NO-NO’S” Some preschooler lessons must be absolute. They must know that some household items, such as cleansers, bleaches, polishes and other warning-labeled products, can make them sick. Don't scare them, but be clear about which things are okay for them to touch and use, and which ones are not.

WHY NOT TO TAKE MEDICINE This is critical. Little children need to know that no medicines, especially the ones prescribed by the doctor, are safe to take without the help from an adult. These pills and syrups are HANDS-OFF unless you are there to give them to your child.

Keep the following messages in mind as you talk with your child:

**OFF TO SCHOOL:
KINDERGARTEN THROUGH
3RD GRADE**

During a child's first years, adults and home make up their “whole world”. This changes dramatically when school starts. Outside influences, including peer pressure, begin creeping in at this age. It is critically important to explain what drugs, alcohol and tobacco are, and the harmful things they can do. But the question remains: How do I do that?

At this age, the most important concept is the simplest...

Make it clear to your kids that anything they eat or drink that is not what they know as “food” can hurt them very badly or make them very, very sick. Also, be sure to mention that eating many of these non-foods can make a child want to eat more and more of them, making them even sicker. This is an easy-to-understand way to start talking about addiction.

You may want to mention that some of these “foods” can make children die. Many children by this age have experienced or observed the loss of a family member, and can begin appropriately considering concepts of life and death.

Keep the following messages in mind as you talk with your child:

Food and medicine that children are given when sick are very different from drugs, alcohol and tobacco

Explain that the food and drugs you get when you are sick are to make you feel better, and that drugs, alcohol and tobacco can hurt you, make you even sicker, or can kill you.

Medicines from the doctor must be given by an adult.

Explain that kids are NEVER to take medicines by themselves or without an adult present.

Children must not touch any substance or container they do not know Teach them to ask first before using anything that might be dangerous.

While grownups sometimes drink alcohol, it's very different for kids.

even older teens
respond well to positive
expressions of love,
concern, trust, respect
and pride in what they do.

Explain that even a little alcohol can make a child very, very sick, and that the effects can last forever. Let them know that as an adult, size comes into play because it takes longer for alcohol to affect us than it would a child, who is smaller in size.

**GROWING UP FAST:
GRADES 4 THROUGH 6**

Children in this age group (roughly ages 9-11) can understand and process more information. They can better understand why some people use alcohol, tobacco and drugs. They also understand what happens when they do. For example, they'll understand when you tell them: If you smoke or drink, it will make you sick.

Children this age absorb facts like a sponge. They want to learn more all the time, and they are very curious about getting ALL the details.



You can use this desire to talk about how “adult” substances affect a person’s body and brain, and how those bad effects are worse in childhood, when the body is smaller and less developed.

Using drugs and other substances will disappoint parents and result in losing their respect, pride and trust.

Advertising makes alcohol and other substances look “cool” and “fun” and turns attention away from the harm these substances can do.

A key point to keep in mind is at this age, your kids still crave your attention and involvement, despite what they may say or do to the contrary. They want the kind of talk that comes with it, including talking about alcohol, drugs and tobacco. Studies have shown that 66% of kids in the fourth grade wish their parents would talk more with them on this very topic.

involved, in touch, and in a position to guide effectively.

Think back to everything you went through at this age. This time in your life helped shape you into the person you are today. Remember how your body was changing, and your emotions were churning? You viewed friendships differently, maybe even romantically. You had many questions – but often, few really good answers.

The fact is, kids in these grades believe that drugs are easy to obtain, be it marijuana, prescription drugs or club drugs (those found at popular under-21 clubs). They are easy to get and because of the ease, some kids see the use of these substances as “normal” and a few will go so far as to use at school, their friends’ home and your home.

nothing is more valuable than making time, every day, for preschoolers.

Keep in mind also that at this age, children start to focus on the importance of having friends and “fitting in”. This is especially true among sixth graders. Many have entered middle school and are now spending time with children several years older. To stay drug-free, these

kids have to fight off lots of pressure to “do what everybody else is doing”. This is very important because studies indicate that when children start using alcohol, drugs and tobacco at an earlier age, they are much more likely to have serious problems as they get older

The bottom line is that kids in this age group need to know, and believe, that drugs and alcohol are bad before entering middle school or junior high.

Here’s a list of specific thoughts they need to grasp:

Alcohol, drugs and tobacco use can cause serious illness, coma or even death.

Even if using these substances doesn’t cause short-term trouble, they can lead to long-term problems.

The effects of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco are especially harmful to growing bodies.

Clearly stating your expectations is very helpful at this point in your child’s life. Make sure they know you have a Zero Tolerance policy for drugs of any kind, including prescriptions, over-the-counter (OTC) medications, non-medical (natural and homeopathic) remedies, and syrups.

Make sure your kids know that it is okay to use you as an excuse. Kids would rather say that their parents will be so unhappy with them, rather than flat out saying no. This is one time when using you as an excuse is perfectly okay.

Finally, and most importantly, really get to know your children. Meet their friends. Support their interests. Learn where they like to “hang out with their buddies”. And, as much as possible, get to know any adult influences in your child’s life. For example: Teachers, friends’ parents, caregivers, babysitters, etc. By working together, you can be more aware of what your kids are exposed to and the possible risks associated with that.

“WHILE THERE IS SIGNIFICANT DRUG USE, IT IS NOT AS WIDESPREAD OR UNIVERSAL AS THE KIDS THEMSELVES TEND TO THINK.”

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE: GRADES 7 THROUGH 9

These are the first really “rebellious” years of a child’s life. At this age, kids yearn for greater independence and decision-making, while at the same time needing and, in many ways, still wanting those very rules and regulations they tend to break away from. The key is to support this personal search for freedom while staying

In reality, the perception is only accurate to a point. Studies shows that while there is significant drug use within this age group, it is not as widespread or universal as the kids themselves tend to think.

It goes a long way to point out the “little things”. For example, tell teens that smoking of any kind – whether from tobacco or marijuana – gives you bad breath, turns your teeth brown and makes your clothing smell. Sometimes,



that can be enough to get kids to quit or to never start. At the same time, though, emphasize the bigger issues and how continued drug use over the long haul can harm them.

The following are key risks from drug and alcohol abuse that may be of interest and importance to this age group:

Social and emotional under-development

Key person-to-person skills and socialization skills normally learned during theses growing formative years are missed.

substance abuse. Smoking can cause cancer of the lungs and emphysema; chewing tobacco can cause cancer of the tongue and cheek; drinking causes problems with the liver; and illegal drugs can combine all these and more.

Permanent crippling injuries

A result from driving while impaired from any substance or from riding with a driver who is impaired. Death can also occur when driving or riding with an impaired person.

Extreme Risks

Extreme risks of substance abuse include long-term addiction, brain damage, coma, chronic vegetative state and death.

The other thing to understand is the impact of the middle school to high school transition on many children in this age. In most communities,

9th grade represents the first year of high school – and a huge shift from being around

other students still balancing on the line between childhood and adulthood – towards being in an environment dominated by young adults.

Whether it's from being back at the bottom of a social ladder, desiring to act more mature, or the increasing pressures of romantic relationships, young people in this age face the risks associated with trying to behave 'beyond their years'. In many cases, drug or alcohol use may be the 'ticket of admission' for younger people to be accepted at parties and gatherings hosted by their older peers.

As a result, this is an essential time to become even more involved and aware of your children's social relationships – in terms of age group, social habits and style preferences. The more you know your child's friends and their parents, the more you will be in a position to help guide successful social and personal decisions.

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BREAKING AWAY: GRADES 10 THROUGH 12

It's a sad fact, but by the time most teens reach this age, they have already faced the decision to use or avoid alcohol, tobacco, and drugs – probably on more than one occasion. The issue is: what did they decide to do?

“THEY CARE ABOUT IMPROVING THE WORLD.”

Chronic and potentially fatal diseases

Highlight the diseases that come from





They've heard and understood the whole range of drug information (and misinformation). They believe they know the tiniest difference in drugs and their effects on the body. They have even ranked their peers by "level of use", judging them to be non-users, "trial users", casual users or addicts.

Clearly, a simplistic statement of "Don't use drugs" doesn't mean enough at this age.

How easy it is for people to become addicted.

The very real possibility of danger and life-long consequences to even non-addicts.

Why does this approach work? Simple: Teens in this near-adult age group constantly look ahead. They view the future as "their turf", and they tend to shy away from anything that threatens it. Encourage them to dream big, and then remind them that judgment impaired

by alcohol, drugs, or tobacco can destroy those big dreams. Any hope for a good life that includes college,

career, military, or a family can all be destroyed in an instant of stupidity, social weakness or irresponsible curiosity.

It also helps to point out that drug use is never a victimless crime. At a minimum, it victimizes the user by limiting his or her life possibilities and opportunities.

Remember too, that this age group is naturally idealistic. They care about improving the world, and in a very real sense, they think they have all the answers. Make it clear to them how using drugs, alcohol, and tobacco can limit the ways they can be helpful.

“Make it clear to them how using drugs, alcohol, and tobacco can limit the ways they can be helpful.”

A better approach is to reinforce negative feelings about these substances by using other facts or bits of knowledge that they have gotten in school, in talks with friends and other adults, and being a lot more aware of the world around them.

In this context, all of the following become valuable topics for family discussion:

How using alcohol, tobacco, and drugs during pregnancy can cause birth defects.

How combining drugs can make them much more intense and dangerous.



IT MAY BE DIFFICULT TO TELL APART THE SIGNS OR SYMPTOMS OF DRUG USE AND “NORMAL” ADOLESCENT BEHAVIOR, SUCH AS MOOD SWINGS, CHANGES IN DRESS AND HAIRSTYLES, AND THE USE OF SLANG TERMS.

When you see extreme changes that last for more than a few days or weeks, it may signal drug or alcohol use.



6

responding to **WARNING SIGNS**

DO YOU SEE ANY OF THESE CHANGES IN YOUR CHILD’S BEHAVIOR?

- Withdrawn, depressed, tired, and moody.
- Hostile, uncooperative, breaks curfews.Careless about appearance.
- Has a new group of friends.
- Is not getting along with other members of the family.
- Has lost interest in favorite sports and hobbies.
- Has a hard time concentrating or is forgetful.
- Is lying or stealing.
- Is paranoid or secretive.Has, or recently had, a car accident.

OR, DO YOU SEE ANY OF THESE PHYSICAL CHANGES?

- Change in appetite/eating habits.
- Dilated pupils/bloodshot eyes.
- Runny nose/chronic cough.
- Unexplained weight changes.
- Slurred or rapid speech.
- Nausea.
- Slowed or staggering walk.
- Inability to sleep.
- Hand shaking.

HAVE YOU NOTICED ANY ACADEMIC CHANGES?

- Sudden decline in grades.
- Often absent or late for school.
- Inability to stay focused on schoolwork.

EARLY DETECTION IS IMPORTANT

In addition to the things just noted, be alert for drug paraphernalia. Rolling papers, pipes, eye drops, and butane lighters are all danger signs. Other items that you may not think are a danger sign include pacifiers (used to keep teeth from grinding together), bobby pins (substitute roach clips), aerosol containers (especially if found in your child’s room) and lollipops. If you suspect your child is using drugs or alcohol, take immediate action. The faster you act, the faster you can help your child.

If you still have doubts, have a medical professional examine your child to rule out any illness or physical problem. If possible, talk to a professional counselor about the best way to approach your child. Finally, don’t blame yourself and don’t feel guilty. Focus on facing the problem and getting your child the help he/she needs.

TIMING IS EVERYTHING

Choose the right time to talk to your child. Don’t have the conversation if you think your child is under the influence of drugs, alcohol or tobacco. Wait until the next day. Then, pick a private setting and time that works for both of you, where you can openly voice your suspicions. If necessary, bring in other members of the family. Think about what you want to say, and how you want to say it. Be careful not to make direct accusations.

Here are some guidelines:

Ask what is going on in your child’s social life, as well as at school. There could be issues you are unaware of, and this will help bring them to the surface.

Talk about the dangers of drugs and alcohol.

Reinforce your Zero Tolerance policy on drugs and alcohol.

Share your feelings, observations, concerns and fears.

Explain that you want to do a drug assessment, and be firm in your commitment.

If your child needs a drug treatment program, call your doctor, local hospital, substance abuse agency, or mental health society for a referral. You may also want to talk to the school counselor about his or her observations of your child. Parents who have been through a drug treatment program are a great resource for advice and information.

ADMITTING THE PROBLEM, DETERMING ITS SEVERITY AND TAKING ACTION

Parents don’t want to admit that their child may be on drugs and alcohol. That would mean, to them, they have failed in one way or another and were not a positive influence on their child. They react with anger, resentment, guilt, and a fear of not being able to provide the help their child may need.

Often, it is far easier for them to deny the problem, chalk it up to a “teenage phase”, or blame the child’s friends or community. Do not go down this road of denial. Instead, commit yourself to keeping your child healthy and safe

no parent wants to admit that their child has a drug or alcohol problem.

by intervening before the problem worsens.

People experience five progressively worsening stages of alcohol and drug use, all of which are serious and can have disastrous, if not fatal, consequences. They are listed as follows:

Experimenting

This stage is the first use or ingestion of alcohol or other drugs without experiencing any negative consequences. The experiment is simple: “Do I like it?” Any further use after this first experiment means the child has moved to stage two.

Misuse

In this stage, the child engages in infrequent substance abuse, usually at predictable times or circumstances: Weekends, holidays, sporting events, etc. Some negative consequences may be experienced including hangovers, minor injuries and embarrassing incidents.

Abuse

This stage involves continued misuse of alcohol or illegal drugs despite the negative consequences. Typically, the child begins



planning his or her life around substance abuse, with a negative impact on family relationships and friendships.

Dependency

By this stage, regular and compulsive use of alcohol or drugs, regardless of the negative

support and a set of guidelines for self-help.

The substance abuse treatments of today are based on seven levels of care and are listed from the least restrictive to the most restrictive:

Non-clinical treatment Can occur in a client’s

residential treatment centers. The latter option uses a multi-disciplinary staff and 24-hour observation, and treatment is available.

Medically monitored residential care Combines residential care with medical monitoring. Medication(s) may be utilized.

Medically managed care Is hospital based and includes a medical detox unit or acute dual-diagnosis, in-patient treatment services, and typically combines 24-hour observation with medical intervention.

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“Without effective intervention and treatment, the child’s dependency is likely to end in death.”

consequences, has become bad enough to make the child’s life unbalanced and unmanageable. Use of the preferred substance dominates his or her thinking, and denial becomes a second-nature defense mechanism.

Death

Without effective intervention and treatment, the child’s dependency is likely o end in death due to overdose, illness, accidents, violence or suicide.

MODERN TREATMENT FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Over the years, substance abuse treatment has evolved a lot. Before, it was mainly provided as an in-patient treatment at a rehab or psychiatric facility. Now treatment is available in many different ways.

Most are based on the proven research of self-help groups like Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous. Participation in groups like these is usually required for most levels of treatment provided today. To be admitted to a self-help group, the substance abusers stated wish must be to stop using drugs or alcohol. Once accepted, the recovering addict relies on other people in recovery rather than an institution’s professional staff, for mutual

home, school or workplace and is focused on helping the individual indentify the problem and prevent further difficulties. Examples of this service include: EAP’s (employee assistance plans), SAP’s (student assistance programs) and family interventions.

Non-residential outpatient treatment Includes treatment methods administered less than 10 hours per week for one to three months. Trained professional provide the services.

Intensive outpatient treatment usually consists of three-to-four hour blocks of combined services, administered three or four days a week over a four-to-eight week period. The goal is to provide a more highly structured program, while still allowing the patient to live at home. Individual and group therapy sessions, family sessions, and introduction to self-help groups are also included.

Partial hospitalization Is offered six-to-eight hours a day, in a hospital or other facility, while still permitting residency in the patient’s home. The client gains greater access to psychiatric and psychological services than with intensive outpatient care.

Residential care Includes low-intensity facilities like halfway houses, as well as high-intensity





7

making **TIME** for your children

MAKE TIME FOR YOUR KIDS. EVERYONE IS BUSY WITH SCHOOL AND WORK, SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES. BUT IT'S IMPORTANT TO SPEND TIME TOGETHER AS A FAMILY.

Whether it is scheduling meals together, activities or events, make time to interact with your children so they feel they are a special part of your family. This increases their sense of belonging and makes them less likely to turn to their peers to meet this need. Be a parent first, a friend second.

Know where your kids are

Find out who they are spending time with, where they are going and what they will be doing. It's your right and responsibility as a parent.

Whenever possible, be there after school, or at least after work

It's a great way to establish good communications with your children. Find out how their day was, what happened in school and if they have homework. Talk to them and really listen. Let them know that you care.

Try to have as many meals together as possible

Spend time with them when they are on the internet, watching TV, listening to their favorite music. It not only gives you an idea of what they are exposed to, but it provides that golden opportunity to talk about what's happening in their life at that moment.

Praise children for their achievements

Whether it's because they have improved their grades, played well in a sporting event, performed well in a play or concert, or aced a test, let them know how proud you are of them. Praise is a great motivator to do well and make everyone proud.

Schedule days with no commitment except spending time together as a family

Families have to find the time and carve it out on the calendar as you would any other event or activity. Family time is key to the health and well-being of everyone, not just your kids.

Give them structure

Set limits and boundaries. Keep track of what they are doing. Let them know the consequences of their actions, if they overstep those limits and boundaries. Above all, enforce those consequences. Don't back down and retreat. You're the parent, not them.



Let them know they can come to you for advice

They need to know you will tell them the truth, not just try to scare them with fear tactics. They will respect you for being honest with them and for showing how much you care. Let them know they can call you at any time, if they are in a situation that makes them uncomfortable. Clearly state they are not bothering you, and reinforce that you are proud they called you and asked for help.

and limit time on the internet and on the phone. Check their cell phone history when you get home to make sure they have followed your rules. Leave snacks and notes for them so they can feel your presence, even if you are not there.

Know the parents of your kids’ friends. Have their phone numbers ready if needed and make sure the parents know of your Zero Tolerance policy on drugs, alcohol and tobacco. Suggest they have the same policy at their house. If there is a party, make sure the parents are there or your kids do not go.

Let your kids know they can always leave a party or other function where drugs, alcohol and tobacco are being used. Reinforce that they will “not be bothering you”.

Keep all alcohol and prescription drugs locked away from your kids.

During the middle school years, there is another factor that plays a major role in the lives of children, and that is having money to spend. It’s a sign of growing maturity to want the power to purchase better, more expensive items. That’s why many teens take their first paying jobs at this age. This fact gives you a powerful message to share with your kids:

Drugs are, plain and simple, a waste of money. They cost a lot of money, and deliver nothing more than a temporary, often unpleasant, feeling. There is nothing to show for the money spent.

Ask them if they really want to waste the money they worked so hard to earn in this way. We know that being frugal or wisely spending money is not a common trait among tweeners and early teenagers. But, by mentioning what could be purchased, such as clothing, sporting goods, bikes, CDs and DVDs, Wii games, or Xbox games, you can give your child a clear

sense of what they could be missing by wasting their money (or yours, if you give them an allowance) on drugs and alcohol.

This discussion may also encourage your child to think about purchases they can make that will help create a positive social setting for themselves, and their friends. Instead of spending money on illegal substances that will ultimately have a negative impact on and possibly ruin their lives, your child could buy a new video game, a recently released music album, or other purchases that would help create new and healthy social experiences with their peers.

THE FIVE C’S

Consistent discipline is one of the best ways to reduce the risk of your children using drugs and alcohol. Here are the 5 C’s of effective discipline:

CLARITY

Be very clear when establishing rights, rules and limits.

Don’t assume your children know the rules until you tell them. Explain what you want, not what they think you want. Have them repeat what you say to make sure there is no confusion.

Be sure they understand the rules, why you have them and what happens if they are broken.

Involve your children in the rule making process. This gives them a sense of ownership and is not perceived as one-sided (all parental input, no kid input).

Keep a written copy where they can see it all the time. Have them sign and date it. This gives them even more ownership because now they know what is happening and can’t plead ignorance or “I didn’t know that is what you really meant.”

COMMUNICATION

Talk about rights, rules and limits – frequently!

Children will challenge you about the fairness of rules. Be willing to review them and provide your reasoning for them.

Talk to your children about how they feel. This will help them open up.

Encourage your children to come to you when they need help with problems, fears or concerns.

Show your children you respect them and believe in them through your words, actions, gestures and tone of voice.

CONSISTENCY

Be consistent in enforcing the rules.

If your children break a rule, they pay the consequences.

If your kids helped to write the rules, this will have a greater impact on them when they break them.

If you want to change a rule, talk about it before, not after it is broken.

Be flexible. Know that changes will be made over time as your kids grow up.

CARING

Show encouragement and support as well as discipline.

keep all alcohol and prescription drugs locked away from your kids.

MAKING TIME IN THE MIDDLE YEARS

Kids are the most vulnerable to drugs, alcohol

and tobacco between 6th and 7th grade. It is especially important to stay involved with their daily lives during this time of enormous transition. Monitoring what they do and who they spend time with is key to their development. Here are some steps to help you along the way:

Whenever possible, arrange to have your kids supervised between 3 and 6 pm if you cannot be there with them. After school activities are a great way to keep them busy and away from negative influences.

If they must be unattended, provide boundaries and rules they must follow. Schedule chores, time to do homework,

consistent discipline is one of the best ways to reduce the risk of your children using drugs and alcohol.



When your children follow the rules, praise them.

When a rule is broken, remember that the action is bad not the child.

Enact the consequences of breaking a rule immediately. Don't wait until the other parent is home. This takes away the effectiveness of the consequences and tells the child that punishment will come later – maybe.

Be realistic in determining the punishment. Make the 'punishment fit the crime'.

Be respectful of your children's rights.

CREATE

Instill a sense of social responsibility in your children.

Teach your children values and moral behavior, such as honesty and fairness. Talk the talk and walk the walk. Your kids will respect you if you follow the same rules.

Let them know you expect them to incorporate these values into their daily lives.

Promote self-respect.

**PRACTICE
ROLE PLAYING**

Chances are, your children will find themselves in risky situations. At some point, peers will approach them to try drugs, alcohol, or tobacco. Let them know that saying “no” can be very difficult. Help them in dealing with these situations through role playing. Set up various situations with them

and ask them for a response. They may feel uncomfortable or nervously laugh, but insist they do it. The practice will give them the tools to handle a situation in real life.

Some role playing examples are:

“Some older kids come up to you after school and offer you some pot.

What do you do or say?”

“You’re at a party and someone offers you a beer, drugs or both.

What do you do or say?”

“You’re on a date and he/she wants you to try drugs or take a drink. What do you do or say?”

Ask your children to provide some situations that could happen to them. Then, practice with language that fits their personalities. Take turns on who offers the drug and who says no. There are drug-related messages in the media that work as a great springboard. Here are some one-liners that will allow your child to dodge drinking or drugs without making a scene:

“No thanks.”

“I don’t feel like it.”

“Not interested.”

Tried it once. Don’t like it.”

My parents would kill me and ground me for life.”

“Back off.”

Have them create their own responses in their own way of talking. It will be more real and believable if they talk like they normally do.



8

reasons and **REALITY CHECKS**



THERE ARE MANY REASONS KIDS TAKE DRUGS. BUT FOR EVERY REASON, THERE’S A CORRESPONDING BACKLASH OF REALITY THAT KIDS NEED TO KNOW.

“Drugs help me feel good.” Drugs can make you feel temporarily relaxed, satisfied, or produce other feelings of intense pleasure.

Reality Check:

This effect is short-lived and problematic. Drugs either imitate the brain’s natural chemical messengers or overstimulate the “reward circuit” of the brain. The brain becomes awash in dopamine, a “neurotransmitter that controls movement, emotion, motivation and feelings of pleasure.” (NIH, 2012)

Your brain begins to adapt to the overwhelming amount of dopamine produced, which then “reduces the abuser’s ability to enjoy not only the drugs but also other events in life that previously brought pleasure.” At this point, the addicted person is compelled to pursuing drugs in attempt to bring the dopamine functions back to normal, but this is a downward futile cycle. (NIH, 2012)

“Drugs help me feel better.” Some people use drugs, not to get high, but to feel “normal.” They just want to lessen depression and feelings of distress.

Reality Check:

Similar to the reality check above, illicit drugs and misused prescription drugs will lead to more anxiety, stress and life issues. (Sara Bellum, 2011)

“Everybody’s doing it.” Peer pressure is one of the strongest reasons for drug use.

Reality Check:

This is the one of the oldest lie about many types of harmful behavior.

“NOT NEARLY EVERYONE’S DOING IT.”

“Drugs help me perform better.”

Athletes sometimes use drugs to feel more powerful and to enhance their performance.

Reality Check:

Boys could develop breasts and acne. Or they could get liver cancer or a heart attack. Girls could develop a deeper voice and increased body hair. Some side effects are reversible, but some are not, such as the deepened voice in females. Children experience problems with their bones being signaled artificially to stop growing, because of heightened sex hormones. Steroid abuse has also been associated with cardiovascular diseases, blood clots, cysts, oily skin and hair, infections, and liver tumors. It’s not worth the side effects. (NIH, 2006).

Though the statistics are concerning, the Monitoring the Future survey shows that not nearly everyone is doing it. Not even half of the young people out there are engaging in experimentation with drugs. (NIH, 2013).

the addicted person is compelled to pursuing drugs in attempt to bring the dopamine functions back to normal, but this is a downward futile cycle.





THERE ARE SO MANY DRUGS AVAILABLE TODAY AND NEW ONES CONTINUE TO APPEAR. THAT'S WHY IT IS CRITICAL THAT YOU ARM YOURSELF WITH INFORMATION ABOUT ALL THE DRUGS YOUR KIDS ARE EXPOSED TO AND COULD BE EXPOSED TO. HERE ARE SOME OF THE MORE COMMONLY USED DRUGS, THE NAMES THEY GO BY AND THEIR EFFECTS.

Although the substances in this list are popular, none of them rivals the widespread abuse of alcoholic beverages. In addition to the addictive nature of alcohol and the physical effects of excessive drinking, alcohol intensifies those effects when used in combination with other drugs and can have fatal results.

9

drugs and their EFFECTS



ALCOHOL

Also known as: Beer, wine, liquor, cooler, whiskey, scotch, bourbon, rye, vodka, brews, saucy, brandy, malt liquor, booze, hooch, and juice.

How it’s used: Ingested orally.

Effects: Dizziness, slurred speech, disturbed sleep, nausea, vomiting, hangover, impaired motor skills, violent behavior. Addiction (alcoholism) respiratory depression and death if taken in high doses. If used during pregnancy, it may cause fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) in babies.

NOTE: The average age for a child to have their first drink is 8.

MARIJUANA/HASHISH

Also known as: Weed, hash, pot, reefer, grass, joint, dope, ganja, Mary Jane, sinsemilla, herb, Aunt Mary, skink, boom, kif, gangster, chronic, 420, blunt and cannabis.

How it’s used: Typically smoked or eaten. Paraphernalia can include pipes, hookahs, water pipes, “carburetors” or bongs, blunts, cigarette rolling papers and cigars (hollowed out and restuffed).

Effects: Bloodshot eyes, dry mouth/throat, impaired or reduced comprehension, altered sense of time, diminished ability to perform tasks requiring concentration, hand-eye coordination, weight gain due to increased appetite and desire for “junk” food (also known as the munchies), inability to properly control motor vehicles, paranoia and/ or pronounced anxiety or panic reactions, impaired ability to receive and process new information, impaired ability to learn, memorize, perceive and make decisions, difficulty in speaking, listening, and retaining knowledge, problem solving and conceptualization.

NOTE: The average age for a teen to try marijuana is 13. It can be smoked using homemade pipes and bongs made from soda cans or plastic containers.

AMPHETAMINES

Also known as: Speed, uppers, ups, hearts, black beauties, pep pills, copilots, bumblebees, Benzedrine, Dexedrine, footballs and biphetamine.

How it’s used: Snorted, smoked, ingested orally or injected.

Effects: Dilated pupils and blurred vision, dizziness, increased body temperature, irritability, anxiety, increased blood pressure, depression, aggression, addiction, paranoid psychosis, convulsions, malnutrition 40 resulting from loss of appetite and insomnia. If injected, increased risk of infectious diseases including HIV/AIDS and various forms of hepatitis. Chronic use can induce psychosis such as paranoia, visual and auditory hallucinations.

METHAMPHETAMINE

Also known as: Speed, meth, crank, crystal, ice, fire, croak, crypto, white cross, glass, chalk.

How it’s used: Snorted, smoked, ingested orally or injected.

Effects: Nervousness, hyperthermia, compulsive behavior, irritability, anxiety, memory loss, increased blood pressure, depression, aggression, addiction, paranoid psychosis, convulsions, malnutrition resulting from loss of appetite and insomnia. If injected, increased risk of infectious diseases including HIV/AIDS and various forms of hepatitis. Chronic use can induce psychosis such as paranoia, visual and auditory hallucinations. Sleeplessness for up to 15 days, heart and blood vessel toxicity, hallucinations, formication (the feeling that

bugs and insects are crawling on or under the skin), heart arrhythmia or stroke.

ECSTASY (MDMA)

Also known as: XTC, Adam, E, X and Molly.

How it’s used: Orally.

Effects: Psychiatric disturbances including panic, anxiety, depression and paranoia, involuntary teeth clenching, nausea, blurred vision, sweating, increased heart rate and blood pressure, hallucinations, reduced appetite, sleep problems, fainting, coma and death.

NOTE: Ecstasy is popular at all-night dance parties (called raves) and at under-21 clubs. It is the most common of “club drugs”. To learn more, go to www.clubdrugs.gov.

RITALIN

Also known as: Speed, west coast.

How it’s used: Orally or crushed, and the powder is snorted or injected.

Effects: Loss of appetite, fever, convulsions, severe headache, irregular heartbeat and respiration, paranoia, hallucinations, delusions, excessive repetition of movements and meaningless tasks and tremors and muscle twitching. If injected, increased exposure to HIV, hepatitis and other infectious diseases as well as serious damage to the lungs and retina of the eye.

NOTE: Ritalin is a highly prescribed medication for treating Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

GHB (GAMMA HYDROXYBUTYRIC ACID)

Also known as: Liquid x, somatomax, scoop, grievous bodily harm, Georgia home boy, goop, gamma-oh and G.

How it’s used: Snorted, orally in liquid form, smoked or mixed in drinks.

Effects: Liver failure, vomiting, tremors, seizures, comas, fatal respiratory problems. Sometimes the user transports the drug in empty hotel shampoo or eyedropper bottles.

NOTE: GHB is popular at all-night dance parties or “raves”. It is used as a date-rape drug. To learn more, go to www.clubdrugs.gov.

ROHYPNOL (FLUNITRAZEPAM)

Also known as: Roach, roofies, the forget pill, rope, rophies, ruffies, R2, roofenol, la roche, rib.

How it’s used: Snorted or ingested orally in pill form or dissolved in a drink.

Effects: Creates a drunken feeling that lasts two to eight hours. Nausea, low blood pressure, difficulty with motor movements and speaking, sense of fearlessness and aggression, dizziness and disorientation and short-term memory loss (inability to remember what happened under the influence of the drug).

NOTE: Rohypnol is also known as the date-rape drug. It is odorless and tasteless, and when mixed with alcohol can incapacitate a victim and prevent resistance to sexual assault. To learn more, go to www.clubdrugs.gov.

KETAMINE (KETAMINE HYDROCHLORIDE)

Also known as: Vitamin K, Special K, new ecstasy, psychedelic heroin, Ketalar, Ketaject,

Super-K, breakfast cereal, cat tranquilizer.

How it’s used: Snorted or smoked.

Effects: Delirium, amnesia, impaired motor function, reduced attention span, impaired learning ability (with continued use), high blood pressure and potentially fatal respiratory problems. Users often have a “near-death” or “out-of-body” experience and behave as though they are looking at themselves from another dimension.

NOTE: Normally used as an anesthetic for animals, Ketamine is a popular club drug, especially at “raves.” It is also used as a date-rape drug as it incapacitates the victim and prevents resistance to sexual assault.

COCAINE AND CRACK

Also known as:

Cocaine - coke, snow, blow, nose candy, flake, big C, lady, white, snowbirds.
Crack - rock, freebase.

How it’s used:

Cocaine - snorted or dissolved in water and injected.
Crack - heated and smoked in a pipe, sometimes with the use of flammable solvents (freebase).

Effects: Pupil dilation, elevated blood pressure and pulse, increased respiratory rate, restlessness and insomnia, grinding of teeth, irritability, anxiety, loss of appetite, addiction, paranoia, seizures, heart attack, respiratory failure, constricted peripheral blood vessels (cold hands, fingers, feet), tactile hallucinations, increased body temperature, and death from overdose. If injected, an increased risk of infectious diseases including HIV and various forms of hepatitis.

HEROIN

Also known as: Smack, horse, mud, brown sugar, junk, black tar, big H, dope, blue magic (this latter is 100% pure heroin).

How it’s used: Snorted, smoked or injected.

Effects: Slurred or slowed speech, slow gait, constricted pupils, droopy eyelids and impaired night vision, vomiting (first use or with very high doses), decreased sexual pleasure or indifference to sex, reduced appetite, constipation, “nodding off” (at high doses), addiction, respiratory depression or failure, and dry, itching skin and skin infections. If injected, increased risk of infectious diseases including HIV and various forms of hepatitis, increasing tolerance to the drug which results in the need for ever-greater doses and death from overdose.

PCP (PHENCYCLIDINE)

Also known as: Angel dust, ozone, rocket fuel, peace pill, elephant tranquilizer, dust.

How it’s used: Smoked (usually in parsley or marijuana cigarettes), snorted, ingested orally or injected.

Effects: Impaired motor coordination, inability to feel physical pain, depression, anxiety, disorientation, hallucinations, “out-of-body” experiences, respiratory attack, combined fear/panic/paranoia, violent or aggressive behavior.

If injected, increased risk of infectious diseases, including HIV and various forms of hepatitis, and death.

NOTE: Marijuana joints may be dipped into PCP without the smoker’s knowledge, creating more exaggerated effects.

LSD (LYSERGIC ACID DIETHYLAMIDE)

Also known as: Acid, microdot, tabs, doses, trips, hits, sugar cubes.

How it’s used: Tabs taken orally or gelatin/liquid put in eyes.

Effects: Elevated body temperature and blood pressure, suppressed appetite, numbness, weakness, sleeplessness, tremors, nausea, sweating, increased heart rate, and chronic recurring hallucinations (flashbacks).

NOTE: LSD is the most common hallucinogen. Tabs are decorated with colorful designs or cartoon characters to appeal to the younger users (elementary and middle school).

MUSHROOMS (PSILOCYBIN)

Also known as: Shrooms, caps, magic mushrooms.

How it’s used: Eaten or brewed to be mixed in tea.

Effects: Increased blood pressure, seating, nausea, and hallucinations.

NOTE: Many mushroom users purchase hallucinogenic mushroom spores via mail order. There is no regulation prohibiting these purchases.

INHALANTS

Also known as: Nitrous oxide, laughing gas, whippets, aerosol sprays, cleaning fluids, solvents, glues, gasoline, Dusters.

How it’s used: Vapors are inhaled (sniffed/huffed/bagged).

Effects: Red/runny eyes, sores around mouth, headache, muscle weakness, abdominal pain, severe mood swings and violent behavior, numbness and tingling of feet and hands, decreased or lost sense of smell, nausea, nosebleeds, liver, lung and kidney damage, dangerous chemical imbalances in the body, fatigue, lack of coordination, loss of appetite, increases in heart and respiratory rates, and hepatitis or peripheral neuropathy from long-time use.

NOTE: Hundreds of legal household products can be sniffed or “huffed” to get high. All inhalants can be toxic.

STEROIDS (SYNTHETIC TESTOSTERONE)

Also known as: Rhoids, juice. How it’s used: Orally or injected into the muscle.

Effects: Liver cancer, sterility, masculine traits in women (facial hair, irregular periods, deepening of voice), feminine traits in men (breast development, shrinking testicles), aggression, depression, acne, and mood swings.

NOTE: Steroid users subject themselves to more than 70 documented side effects, up to and including fatal brain cancers. For more information, go to www.steroidabuse.gov.

TOBACCO

Also known as: Smoke, bone, butt, coffin nail, and cancer stick.

How it’s used: Cigarettes, cigars, pipes, smokeless tobacco (chew, dip, snuff).

Effects: Addiction, heart and cardiovascular disease, cancer of the lung, larynx, esophagus, bladder, pancreas, kidney and mouth, emphysema and chronic bronchitis, spontaneous abortions, pre-term deliveries, and low birth rate.

OXYCONTIN

Also known as: Oxy, poor man's heroin, hillbilly heroin, O's.

How it's used: Tablets are chewed or crushed to release the time-release mechanism, and the powder is sniffed or injected.

Effects: This is a powerful narcotic that causes a morphine-like high. Cold and clammy skin, slow breathing, dizziness, weakness, loss of consciousness, seizures, coma and confusion.

NOTE: OxyContin has been called a wonder drug and is a powerful painkiller used for cancer and chronic pain patients. In the wrong hands, however, it can kill. When combined with alcohol, it is fatal.

PRESCRIPTION STIMULANTS

Also known as: Adderall, Dexedrine, Ritalin.

How it's used: Tablets are swallowed and may be injected when abused.

Effects: Increase in blood pressure and heart rate, constricts blood vessels, increases blood sugar, and increases breathing rate. These can be felt as increases in alertness, attention, and energy, and the risk of cardiovascular failure (heart attack) and lethal seizures increases with use.

NOTE: These drugs are generally prescribed for narcolepsy (falling asleep while awake), attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder and short-term treatment of obesity. Patients requiring these medications have a chemical imbalance in their brain, and the use of these medications levels out that imbalance. People who do not have these conditions will feel the effects listed above and can experience rapid heart beats, and dangerously high body

temperature.

PRESCRIPTION SEDATIVES AND TRANQUILIZERS

Also known as: Barbiturates (sleeping pills), benzodiazepines (tranquilizers), Mebaral, Quaaludes, ludes, Xanax and Valium.

How it's used: Swallowed or injected.

Effects: Slowed normal brain function, slurred speech, shallow breathing, sluggishness, fatigue, disorientation, lack of coordination and dilated pupils. Higher doses cause memory, judgment and coordination impairment, irritability, paranoia and suicidal inclinations.

NOTE: When mixed with alcohol, this combination can cause very slow breathing and slower respiration (intake of oxygen into the system to properly circulate the blood), which can lead to death.

DEXTROMETHORPHAN (DXM)

Also known as: Dex, robo, skittles, triple C, Tussin.

How it's used: Swallowed.

Effects: Found in over-the-counter (OTC) cough medicines, effects include confusion, dizziness, double or blurred vision, slurred speech, impaired physical coordination, abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting, rapid heart beat, drowsiness, numbness of fingers and toes, and disorientation.

NOTE: Cough medications containing DXM can also include acetaminophen, which can be very dangerous when taken in large quantities, and can adversely affect the liver. Most pharmacies and retail stores in Pennsylvania that sell products with DXM are now requiring

identification before purchasing and are keeping DXM products behind the pharmacy counters.

SYNTHETIC CATHINONES

Also known as: Bath salts, Ivory Wave, Bloom, Cloud Nine, Lunar Wave, Vanilla Sky, White Lightning, and Scarface.

How it's used: Taken orally, inhaled, or injected, with the worst outcomes being associated with snorting or needle injection.

Effects: Euphoria and increased sociability and sex drive, paranoia, agitation, and hallucinatory delirium; some even display psychotic and violent behavior, and deaths have been reported in several instances.

NOTE: This drug should not be confused with products such as Epsom salts that are sold to improve the experience of bathing. Epsom salt has no psychoactive (drug-like) properties.

SYNTHETIC MARIJUANA

Also known as: Spice, K2, fake weed, Yucatan Fire, Skunk, Moon Rocks.

How it's used: Mainly smoking; sometimes mixed with marijuana, or is prepared as an “herbal infusion” for drinking.

Effects: Elevated mood, relaxation, altered perception, rapid heart rate, vomiting, agitation, confusion, raised blood pressure, reduced blood supply to the heart (myocardial ischemia), and in a few cases it has been associated with heart attacks. Regular users may experience withdrawal and addiction symptoms. Some users report psychotic effects like extreme anxiety, paranoia, and hallucinations. It is important to note that because the chemical composition of many products sold as Spice is unknown, it is likely that some varieties also contain substances that could cause dramatically different effects than the user might expect.

NOTE: “Spice” refers to a wide variety of herbal mixtures that produce experiences similar to marijuana (cannabis) and that are marketed as “safe,” legal alternatives to that drug. These products contain dried, shredded plant material and chemical additives that are responsible for their psychoactive (mind-altering) effects.

Some Spice products are sold as “incense,” but they more closely resemble potpourri.

Works Cited

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**“What you
do today is
important,
because you
are exchanging
a day of your
life for it.”**



OUR FAMILY CONTRACT - PARENT

Whereas, being dedicated to your well-being, /!we want to provide a foundation for your successful independence, assist you as you develop your abilities to be self-sustaining and ensure that you have every opportunity for happiness: and

Whereas, recognizing your strength to embrace with eagerness all things new; //we want you to be aware of the risks associated with substance abuse; provide you with the resources to make good decisions for yourself and empower you with the security of a healthful life.

Whereas, recognizing your strength to embrace with eagerness all things new; //we want you to be aware of the risks associated with substance abuse; provide you with the resources to make good decisions for yourself and empower you with the security of a healthful life.

Now, therefore, as your parent(s) or guardian(s), I/we agree to:

Tell you about the dangers and risks of substance abuse and their adverse impact on your future.

Assist you in developing appropriate responses to your peers and others who encourage you to experiment with drugs, alcohol or tobacco.

Adopt firm rules and clear limits in order to protect you and update them when necessary.

Be consistent in the rules’ application and enforce fair consequences for their violation.

Listen to you when you talk and answer your questions honestly.

Set aside time for you and create family rituals.

Get involved in your education and encourage you to excel in healthy and creative activities.

Know your friends, and know your friends’ parents.

Call parents whose home is to be used for a party to ensure that there will be adult supervision.

Make it easy for you to leave a party where alcohol and drugs are being used.

Set the right example by not smoking, drinking in excess or using illicit drugs.

Set the right example by not abusing prescription medications or over-the-counter drugs.

Expect good behavior and be sure to acknowledge it.

Pledge to appreciate and respect you, demonstrate my/our love for you and value our time together.

Signature_____Date _____

Signature_____Date _____

OUR FAMILY CONTRACT - CHILD

Whereas, I appreciate how much you love and care for me and I do not want to disappoint you; and

Whereas, I know life is full of opportunities and choices and it makes sense to stay drug-free in order to achieve my goals and ultimately, be successful and happy.

Now, therefore, as your child, I agree to:

Choose not to use/abuse prescription medications or over-the-counter drugs.

Choose not to use tobacco, cigarettes, alcohol or illegal drugs and not permit others to do so in my car or house.

Choose not to use prescription medications or over-the-counter drugs unless a doctor tells me to.

Not get in an automobile when the driver has used/abused drugs, alcohol or tobacco products.

Tell you where I am going, what I am doing, who I will be with, when I will be home and check in with you at regular times.

Talk to you when I have questions and concerns and listen to what you have to say.

Take responsibility for my choices and actions.

Respect and obey the rules you set and enforce.

Set a good example for my friends, siblings, and others by getting involved in activities that do not involve drugs, alcohol or tobacco.

Signature_____Date _____

Signature_____Date _____

CALLING FOR HELP. WHO TO CONTACT AND HOW

SUPPORT GROUPS

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS NATIONWIDE

WWW.AA.ORG • 1-212-870-3400
LOCALLY, LOOK FOR AN AA LISTING IN YOUR PHONE DIRECTORY. IN MOST URBAN AREAS, A CENTRAL AA OFFICE OR “ INTERGROUP”, WILL BE HAPPY TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS AND PROVIDE CONTACT ASSISTANCE.

AI-Anon Family Group Headquarters

www.al-anon.alateen.org • 1-800-4AL-ANON (1-888-425-2666)

Families Anonymous

www.familiesanonymous.org • 1-800-736-9805

Narcotics Anonymous

www.na.org • 1-818-773-9999

Toughlove International

www.4troubledteens.com • 1-866-828-0178

African-American Family Services

www.aafs.net • 1-612-871-7878

American Council for Drug Education

www.acde.org • 1-718-222-6641

Referrals

1-800-662-HELP (4357)

Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP)

www.prevention.samhsa.gov • 1-240-276-2420

Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT)

www.csat.samhsa.gov • 1-800-662-HELP (4357)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

www.cdc.gov • 1-800-232-4636

Drug and Alcohol Service Providers Organization

of Pennsylvania (DASPOP)
717-652-9128

National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information (NCADI)

www.higheredcenter.org • 1-800-676-1730

National Crime and Prevention Council

www.ncpc.org • 1-202-466-6272

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism

www.niaaa.nih.gov • 1-301-443-3860

National Institute on Drug Abuse

www.nida.nih.gov • 1-301-443-1124

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org • 1-202-307-5911

Office of Minority Health Resource Center

www.minorityhealth.hhs.gov • 1-800-444-6472

Office of National Drug Control Policy

www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov • 1-800-666-3332

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependency

www.ncadd.org • 1-212-269-7797

Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools

www2.ed.gov/osdfs • 1-800-872-5327

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

www.samhsa.gov • 1-240-276-1660 (Treatment)
1-240-276-2420 (Prevention)

IMPORTANT LOCAL NUMBERS

911 - POLICE/EMERGENCY

ICE (IN CASE OF EMERGENCY) NUMBERS

NAME_____

NAME_____

NAME_____

FAMILY DOCTORS/MEDICAL PERSONNEL

NAME_____

NAME_____

NAME_____

WORK NUMBERS

NAME_____

NAME_____

LOCAL HOSPITALS

NAME_____

NAME_____

NAME_____

SCHOOLS/GUIDANCE COUNSELORS

NAME_____

NAME_____

NAME_____

These forms are also available as a digital download.
You can download them here.

<http://tinyurl.com/nax3yqod>



Drug Free Pennsylvania
3901 Hartzdale Drive, Suite 110 | Camp Hill, PA 7011
Phone: 717.232.0300 | Fax: 717.232.5400

www.drugfreepa.org

‘STRAIGHT TALK’
FOR PARENTS

curriculum **GUIDE**