STRAIGHT TALK About Kids and Drugs

STRAIGHT, INC.
P.O. Box 9
Milford, Ohio 45150
(513) 575-2673

survivingstraightinc.com

When Is A Child On Drugs

Do you sometimes wonder at the strange and unpredictable actions of your teenage child? That tendency to stare off into space? Silly excessive laughing for no apparent reason? Does your child come in later than told, with all kinds of excuses? Or does he go straight to his room and shut the door to listen to loud blaring music?

Have you seen a change in your child's attitude toward school? Are his grades dropping? Is he skipping school? Do you have hassels over the slightest thing and argue, argue, argue?

Have you noticed a change in personal hygiene, a change in appetite or appearance?

Have your child's friends changed recently? Do you see them? When you do, are you pleased with the choices he is making?

If your answers to the above questions reveal some doubt about your child's behavior—the reason may be that he or she is using some kind of drugs.

If you try to confront your child with your fears, the answer will simply be "Of course not!!" or "Prove it!!" A child using drugs becomes very clever at getting around your suspicions.

It is important for you to accept the fact that children cannot handle drug use. Don't let them tell you they have just "tried" it. Drugs are not child's play.

Parent Awareness

As a parent you need to realize that you are not alone. Statistics tell us that at least 60% of high school pupils are "doing drugs." The parents of these children are hurting just as you are. Many have sought help from psychiatrists, psychologists, the church. But a child on drugs has a real ability to "con" adults, even the professionals. But — it is very hard for a kid to "con" another kid who has "been there." Positive peer pressure is the simple reason why the Straight program works.

When your child tells you that there is nothing you can do about his/her drug use . . . think about Straight. Think about getting help to rebuild damaged family relationships. The decision is difficult, but you need to make it. Someday your child will thank you.

STRAIGHT
A Direction for Youth

"This is an idea growing out of the community responding to community needs, rooted in families coping with problems together, that can help all of us overcome our sense of helplessness and help us all learn that families and communities can fight the drug problem.

Straight is the best program of its kind in the country. What you do in the program helps the kids, helps the parents, and helps the community."

Robert L. DuPont, M.D.
Founding Director
National Institute on Drug Abuse

Straight, Inc.'s simple theory of kids helping kids works. Peer pressure is what gets kids onto drugs—and here, with professional supervison, we use peer pressure to get them off drugs.

Straight, Inc. is a family-oriented drug rehabilitation program for young drug abusers between the ages of 12 and 21. Family-oriented is a very important word in that sentence and at Straight. Involvement of the whole family is intense—Open Meetings twice a week, parent raps, foster children, sibling raps.

Straight is not an inpatient facility where parents can drop their children off, and then come back some months later and pick up a drug free child. It doesn't work that way. When a child comes to Straight, he is away from his home for a minimum of 14 days.

But here is where Straight's foster home system comes in. The youngster who has been taken away from his home environment is placed in a Straight foster home until he earns the privilege of going home. This foster home is the home of another Straight child who has progressed within the program and is ready to help another child by sharing what he has learned about himself.

The foster parent drives the youngsters to the program each morning and home each night. When the youngsters return to school, this often means another drive back and forth. Yet, if you ask these parents you will find that they feel this is a small sacrifice to make for a straight child—a loving, honest teenager with a new drug-free lifestyle.

Straight is headquartered in St. Petersburg, Florida, with branches in Cincinnati, Ohio, Atlanta, Georgia and Washington D.C.

For help—you can reach us in Cincinnati by calling (513) 575-2673—or write to us at:

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The Drugs Children Use

Parents can be very naive about the vast amounts and varieties of drugs available to their children. Do you know what it means to "huff gas?" Did you ever hear of Blue Cheer, Acapulco Gold, or Chicken Powder? Did you know that heroin is sold on the street as Brown Sugar?

Most kids start out sharing a "joint" and a can of beer. As the partying progresses the child becomes a buyer of pot, hash, hash oil and other mood altering substances.

As he becomes a more sophisticated user, the child graduates to mushrooms, which can be eaten raw or boiled into a potent tea. Huffing gas and sniffing glue provide a cheap high and lead the child to inhaling the gas in aerosol cans.

As time goes by the highs aren't so high anymore and the child seeks more powerful substances and experiences. Depressants such as Quaaludes, valium, seconal and nembutal are stolen from the medicine cabinet. Soon your child "connects" with the local supplier and starts buying his pills.

From here it is an easy step toward "coke" which is cocaine, amphetamines, LSD (acid) PCP, THC.

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For The Youthful Drug Abuser.

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