

Quiz For Parents

Is There A Problem?

This can sometimes be a difficult question to answer, especially during the initial stages of alcohol and other drug use, when you may see little direct evidence that your child is using. Some signs of alcohol and other drug use can often be confused with “normal” adolescent behavior or other health problems. Other signs, however, are very strong indicators.



1. Has your child’s personality changed markedly?
Yes No Unsure
2. Does your child’s mood change quickly? Does he/she seem sullen, withdrawn from the family and/or display sudden anger or depression?
Yes No Unsure
3. Does your child spend hours in his/her room?
Yes No Unsure
4. Has your child lost interest in school, school activities or school athletics?
Yes No Unsure
5. Has your child stopped spending time with old friends and is spending time with kids that worry you?
Yes No Unsure
6. Is your child secretive or evasive about his/her friends, where they go and what they do?
Yes No Unsure
7. Have you suspected that money or other objects have been missing from around the house?
Yes No Unsure
8. Have you noticed your child having more money than you would expect?
Yes No Unsure
9. Has your child been in contact with the law and has alcohol or other drugs been involved in any way?
Yes No Unsure
10. Does your child get angry and defensive when you talk to him/her about alcohol and other drugs or refuse to discuss the topic at all?
Yes No Unsure

11. Has your child become dishonest? Do you feel you're not getting straight answers about what your child is doing, whom he/she is with, or where he/she is going?

Yes No Unsure

12. Are there physical signs of alcohol use? Have you smelled alcohol on your child's breath?

Yes No Unsure

13. Are there physical signs of other drug use? Have you smelled the odor of marijuana or tobacco on your child's clothing or in his/her room?

Yes No Unsure

14. Has your child had slurred speech when talking to you or thoughts that seem to be unclear?

Yes No Unsure

15. Has your child had bloodshot eyes, swaggering gait or has he/she been physically unable to stand?

Yes No Unsure

16. Have you seen evidence of alcohol? Have you ever found a hidden bottle or beer cans carelessly left in the car?

Yes No Unsure

17. Have you seen evidence of other drugs such as tobacco, marijuana seeds, marijuana pipes, rolling papers or other drug paraphernalia?

Yes No Unsure

18. Has your child's relationship with you or other family members deteriorated?

Yes No Unsure

19. Is your child less interested in siblings or does he/she now verbally (or physically) abuse younger brothers and sisters?

Yes No Unsure

20. Has your child ever been caught with alcohol, tobacco or other drugs at school or school activities?

Yes No Unsure

21. Has your child's grooming deteriorated and/or does he/she dress in a way that is associated with drug use?

Yes No Unsure

22. Has your child's taste in music changed or become more drug-oriented?

Yes No Unsure

23. Has your child lost interest in school and/or other activities?

Yes No Unsure

24. Does your child seem unhealthy, lethargic, more forgetful and less active?

Yes No Unsure

This questionnaire is not meant to diagnose alcohol and drug problems. It is meant to alert parents that problems are likely. The questions serve as detectors and may show a need for further action. Some of these questions may be answered "yes," yet simply reflect normal adolescent behavior. "Yes" answers to questions directly related to alcohol and other drug use are cause for concern. These questions indicate that you have a child using alcohol or other drugs and action should be taken immediately.

Parents should look for an emerging pattern. Monitor the child closely, talk to knowledgeable sources, and utilize outside help. If you answered "yes" to three or more questions, help is probably needed. Your child may be in the experimental stages or may already be heavily involved in alcohol or other drugs. Remember that it is very difficult to handle this problem without help. It does not pass with time. It may well be a life and death matter. If you are concerned, take action! Call a knowledgeable source to discuss this questionnaire with them.

For answers to concerns about parenting, call PRIDE-Omaha, Inc. at 402-397-3309.