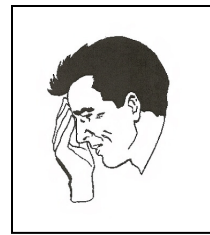


# FOR PARENTS: IS THERE A PROBLEM?



Does your child have a drug problem? This question can sometimes be a difficult one to answer, especially during the initial stages of alcohol or other drug use, when parents might see little direct evidence that their child is using drugs. Some signs of alcohol and/or other drug use can often be confused with “normal” adolescent behavior or other health problems. Other signs, however, are very strong indicators. The following survey is meant to be a general guide for parents.

*Please circle your answer:*

1. Has your child's personality changed markedly?  
**YES                      NO                      UNSURE**
2. Does your child's moods change quickly? Does he/she seem sullen or withdraw from the family and/or display sudden anger or depression?  
**YES                      NO                      UNSURE**
3. Does your child spend hours alone 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 now 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 have 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, who he/she is with, or where he/she is at?  
**YES                      NO                      UNSURE**
12. Are there physical signs of alcohol or other drug 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 had thoughts that seem to be unclear?  
**YES                      NO                      UNSURE**

15. Has your child had bloodshot eyes, swaggering gait or been physically unable to stand or stand still?  
**YES NO UNSURE**
16. Have you seen evidence of alcohol or other drugs? Have you ever found a hidden bottle or beer cans in his/her bedroom or car?  
**YES NO UNSURE**
17. Have you seen evidence of other drugs? Have you found tobacco, marijuana seeds, marijuana pipes, rolling papers, pro-drug magazines, dust masks, glow sticks, pacifiers or other drug paraphernalia? Does he/she use the excuse that he/she is “holding it” for a friend? Or that a friend left them in his/her car?  
**YES NO UNSURE**
18. Have your child’s relationships 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 even 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 or other activities?  
**YES NO UNSURE**
24. Does your child seem unhealthy, lethargic, more forgetful, less active?  
**YES NO UNSURE**
25. Does your child actively defend the use of drugs, the legalization of marijuana or industrial hemp? Does he/she seem preoccupied with these and related topics?  
**YES NO UNSURE**

This questionnaire is not a scientific instrument and is not meant to diagnose alcohol or other drug problems. It is meant to alert parents that problems could be likely. The questions are “red flag” detectors and may show a need for further investigation or action. Keep in mind that some of these questions can be answered “yes” yet simply reflect “normal” adolescent behavior. “Yes” answers to questions directly related to alcohol and other drug use are, of course, cause for concern. These questions indicate that probably you have a child using alcohol and/or other drugs and action should be taken immediately.

Parents should look for an emerging pattern. A few “yes” or “unsure” answers should alert parents to suspect alcohol and drug use. Monitor the child more closely, talk to knowledgeable sources, and prepare to receive outside help.

If you answered “yes” to 3 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, it is very difficult to handle this problem without the help of others. 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 and discuss this questionnaire with them.



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