

WPCS, P.C.

Questions for Parents

You may suspect that your child or teenager is having trouble with alcohol and other drugs, but short of smelling liquor on the breath or discovering pills in pockets, how do you tell? While symptoms vary, there are some common tip-offs. Your answers to the following questions will help you determine if a problem exists.

1. Has your youngster's personality changed dramatically? _____
Does s/he seem giddy, depressed, extremely irritable or hostile without reason? _____
Do his or her moods change suddenly, intensely, and without provocation? _____

2. Is your supply of liquor, mood, or diet drugs dwindling? _____
Unless you keep a close inventory, you may not detect diminished amounts for months.

3. Is your youngster less responsible about doing chores? _____
About getting home on time? _____
About following instructions and household rules? _____

4. Has s/he lost interest in school? _____
In extracurricular activities, especially sports? _____
Are grades dropping? _____
Has the teacher complained that your youngster is sleeping or inattentive in class? _____
Is your youngster skipping school? _____

5. Has your youngster changed friends and started hanging out with a drinking or drug using group? _____
Are there weekend-long parties? _____
(A youngster having problems with alcohol or other drugs will abandon old friends and seek out those with similar attitudes and behaviors.)

6. Are you missing money or objects which are easily converted into cash? _____
(A young person's need for alcohol or other drugs increases and becomes more expensive. Eventually, the need for drugs overcomes any guilt about stealing from family members.)

7. Have neighbors, friends, or others talked to you about your child's behavior or drug taking?
(These reports may be valid.) _____
8. Has your child been arrested for drunkenness?
Driving under the influence or alcohol or other drugs? _____
Disorderly conduct? _____
Delinquent acts? _____
(Encounters with the legal system often indicate underlying problems with drugs. There is a strong correlation between alcohol and other drug abuse and delinquency.)
9. Does your child strongly defend his or her right to use alcohol and other drugs?
(People defend that which is most important to them.) _____
10. Does your child "turn off" to talks about alcohol and other drug addictions?
(Abusers would rather not hear anything which might interfere with their behavior, while non-users will listen without becoming defensive.) _____

Parent Interview

Please take time to answer these questions.

Presenting problem:

Brief history of the problem:

Is the adolescent in danger of hurting him/herself or others?

Is the adolescent abusing chemicals?

Has the adolescent had previous therapy/substance abuse treatment?

Has the adolescent ever run away from home?

Is the adolescent sexually active?

Has the adolescent or your family ever experienced any major changes or crises recently?

Is there a history of major mental illness, emotional illness, or instability in the family history?

Has s/he ever been diagnosed with a learning disability?

Attention Deficit Disorder?

Hyperactivity?

Autism?

Are there any school problems?

Is your child adopted?

Developmental History

Was the child born full term or premature?

Were there any complications in the pregnancy or the birth?

Did you use substances during the pregnancy?

What were your child's APGAR scores?

When did your child walk? Talk? Become bottle/breast weaned?

When was your child successfully toilet trained?

Does your child still have nocturnal enuresis?

Was your child a picky eater?

Did/does your child have nightmares?

Did/does your child have anxiety or fears about anything?

Did your child have difficulty leaving you and going to school?

Did your child have any head injuries, chronic illnesses, or other physical trauma?

Thank you your answers will be helpful in the interview.