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## HOW TO TELL IF A KID IS ON DRUGS

Whether parents want to admit it or not, the harsh reality is that today, almost no young person in America escapes encounters with the drug culture. Our nation has the highest rate of teen drug use of any industrial country. The percentage of young people using illegal drugs by age eleven has tripled during the past decade. Some experts claim that over 90 percent of high school-age young people in this country have experimented with mood-altering chemicals at some time during their school years.

Parents who are unaware of substance abuse among young people in our society are giving up responsibility for raising their children. Some parents came of age in the 1960s and 1970s when experimentation with alcohol and perhaps marijuana was considered a "normal" rite of passage, and consider experimentation with drugs to be acceptable. Parents who tacitly or openly condone drug use by their children are guilty of a form of neglect and even abuse.

The Community Resource Development (CRD) program staff of the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service believes that the Four-L formula (Learn, Look, Lead, and Love) presented in the video **How To Tell If A Kid Is On Drugs** is basic in the fight against adolescent drug abuse. The program presents an analysis of each of these four important elements.

The United States Drug Enforcement Administration recognizes five classes of controlled dangerous drugs which are reviewed in the video program.

- Cannabis or marijuana
- Depressants (Tranquilizers, Alcohol)
- Stimulants (Cocaine, Amphetamines, or Diet Pills)
- Hallucinogens (LSD, PCP, or Angel Dust)
- Narcotics (Opium, Heroin, Morphine)

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**Suggested Uses:**

To provide select audiences with accurate, current knowledge of adolescent drug abuse. To provide an educational program to serve as an introduction piece for audience discussion.

**Recommended For:**

Community and corporate prevention and rehabilitation programs, schools, colleges and universities, and 4-H youth programs. In addition, Chamber of Commerce and civic groups for public support.

**Producers:**

Syndistar, Inc.  
648 Hickory Ave.  
New Orleans, LA 70123  
1-800-841-9532

Detailed questions concerning drug abuse or any form of crime prevention should be directed to your local police or sheriff's department. Please consult your local extension office for additional crime prevention resources made available by the CRD program.

**CONCLUSION**

Many adults do not recognize adolescent drug use until after the drug has become an emotional crutch. The drug dependency by this stage has interfered with school work and slowed down social, emotional, and possibly even physical development. The 14 minute presentation **HOW TO TELL IF A KID IS ON DRUGS** (and what to do about it) was produced by Syndistar Inc. for law enforcement, educators, and parents as a part of its drug awareness program. It is intended to provide a starting point for the discussion of drug abuse among youth.



**Community Resource  
Development**

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