

CHARACTERISTICS OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE

1 Thessalonians 5:7

C. WHAT CLUES COME FROM CHEMICALLY DEPENDENT KIDS?

If you observe 50 percent or more of the following signs and symptoms of drug use in your teenager, it is likely that your teen is involved in harmful substance abuse—typically with friends. Pray for wisdom to recognize whether your teenager is in trouble, and tell your teen . . .

Numbers 32:23

SCHOOL

- Drop in grades
- Drowsiness/sleeping in class
- Tardiness, skipping classes, truancy
- Forging parents' signature on excuses
- Breaking the _____/breaking the _____
- In-school suspensions, alternative school referral
- Shortened attention span, difficulty _____
- New set of friends in school or out of school
- Dropping out of once valued extra curricular activities

PERSONAL

- Moody, irritable
- Agitated, _____, hostile
- Short or long-term memory loss
- Unmotivated, lethargic, undisciplined
- Change in appearance, posture, grooming
- Change in appetite, eating more but consistently losing weight
- Looking unhealthy, _____, enlarged pupils, nagging cough
- Experiencing frequent skin and respiratory infections
- Sexually promiscuous, irregular menstrual cycles

HOME

- Withdrawn, indifferent
- _____, disrespectful, rude
- Using obscene or profane language
- Quiet and defensive about new friends
- Taking _____ and valuables from house
- Using air fresheners to cover up drug odors
- Decorating bedroom with posters of rock groups and drug related slogans
- Collecting pipes, small containers, cigarette papers or other drug related items
- Leaving peculiar smelling cigarette butts, seeds, leaves in ashtrays or pant pockets

The Bible gives this general warning to young people who walk without wisdom.

Proverbs 5:2

Note: If either you or your son or daughter is experiencing these symptoms, be sure to consult your health care professional.

Proverbs 14:25

D. WHAT CLUES ARE CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILDREN WITH AN ADDICTED PARENT?

- _____ - Does the child see himself or herself as the main cause of a parent's chemical dependency?
- _____ - Does the child worry about the situation at home?
- **Embarrassment** - Is the child ashamed to invite friends home or ask for help?
- **Distrustful** - Does the child have difficulty trusting others due to distrust of a parent?
- _____ - Does the lack of a regular schedule at home or fluctuating temperaments of parents create instability?
- **Anger** - Is the child angry at the addicted parent or at the non-addicted parent for enabling?
- _____ - Does the child feel lonely and helpless to change the situation?
- **Hypervigilant** - Is the child especially sensitive to the moods of others?
- _____ - Is the child quick to assume responsibility for others?
- **People - pleaser** - Does the child avoid conflict at any cost?

Jesus said to his disciples: "Things that cause people to sin are bound to come, but woe to that person through whom they come. It would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around his neck than to cause one of these little ones to sin". Luke 17:1-2

NEXT WEEK: Causes for Being Chemically Dependent