

# Every kid comes with an anti-drug device...YOU!

For more information or to become actively involved in the PREVENTION WORKS for a Drug Free Fairfield County initiative contact your local Director.

**Mission:**

The Mission of the Prevention Works for a Drug Free Fairfield County is to prevent and reduce substance abuse and violence among youth and, over time, among adults by establishing and strengthening collaboration by and between all sectors of the community.

**Contact Information:**

Toni Ashton, Director  
Prevention Works for a  
Drug Free Fairfield County  
108 W. Main Street  
Suite B  
Lancaster, OH 43130  
Phone: 740.681.5542  
Fax: 740.681.5540  
Email [tashton@co.fairfield.oh.us](mailto:tashton@co.fairfield.oh.us)



# *Prevention Works for a Drug Free Fairfield County*



# ***Talk to Your Child About Drugs and Alcohol.***

Kids say their parents are the most important influence when it comes to drugs and alcohol. So this message needs to start with you. Kids need to hear how risky drug and alcohol use can be. Don't wait until your child has a problem. The earlier you talk to your kids about drugs and alcohol, the less likely they will be to use it. Find a time like driving your child to school or soccer practice and use it as an opportunity to talk. Tell your kids how drugs and alcohol interfere with concentrating on schoolwork or their ability to play sports. Explain the legal trouble they can get into and let them know they could lose a job or a scholarship. Tell them how to stay away from risky situations and what words to use if someone offers them drugs or alcohol.

## ***What You Need to Know***

- ◆ Alcohol and drug use adversely affects children/teens by affecting brain development, memory and learning.
- ◆ Binge drinkers consume an average of 5.6 drinks at a time and can start in middle school.
- ◆ Peer acceptance and no perceived harm are important risk factors in alcohol and drug use.
- ◆ Clear parental boundaries, monitoring, and communication are significant factors in preventing underage drinking and drug use.
- ◆ Alcohol advertising works!
- ◆ Unclear boundaries and inconsistent messages from the community increases risk of use.
- ◆ Developmental assets help young people make wise decisions, choose positive paths, and grow up competent, caring and responsible. The more assets the more developmentally healthy they will be.
- ◆ All organizations, institutions and individuals in a community play a role in building assets for youth.

## ***What You Can Do***

- ◆ Be involved in your kid's lives!  
Ask Who, What, When and Where
- ◆ Know your child's friends, what your child is doing, when your child will be home, and where your child is going.
- ◆ Eat dinner, listen to music, watch a ball game, do chores together.
- ◆ Set a firm rule of no drug or underage alcohol use by your children.
- ◆ You are your kid's role model. They notice everything you do. Commit yourself to a drug-free lifestyle.
- ◆ The hours after school, between 3 and 6 p.m., are when lots of kids get in trouble. During summer months, kids have even more free time on their hands. Try to be with your kids, but if that's not possible, make sure your child is occupied with an adult around: sports, jobs, clubs, after-school programs or religious youth groups.

## ***Parents Who Host Lose The Most...***

What parents should know:

As a parent, you cannot give alcohol to your teen's friends under the age of 21 under any circumstance, even in your own home, even with their parent's permission  
You cannot knowingly allow a person under 21, other than your own child, to remain in your home or on your property while consuming or possessing alcohol

If you break the law:

You can face a maximum sentence of six months in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine  
Others can sue you if you give alcohol to anyone under 21 and they, in turn, hurt someone, hurt themselves or damage property

Things you can do as a parent:

Refuse to supply alcohol to children other than your own in your home or on your property  
Be at home when your teen has a party  
Make sure that alcohol is not brought into your home or property by your teen's friends  
Talk to other parents about not providing alcohol at other events your child will be attending  
Offer alcohol-free opportunities and activities in your home so teens will feel welcome  
Report underage drinking by calling the anonymous, toll-free Hotline at 1-877-4-MINORS