

## Drug Danger Signs



Kids can be savvy at hiding evidence of drug use or experimentation, but sometimes they will leave behind clues. If you see any of these signs (and especially a combination of a number of these signs), it's time to talk to your child.

- Rolling papers (for cigarettes or marijuana) or pipes
- Butane lighters
- Butts, leaves, or seeds in wastebaskets, clothing pockets, or ashtrays
- Powders or pills in small plastic bags
- Bloodshot eyes, slurred speech
- Unusual clumsiness or lack of physical coordination
- Drops in school grades
- A decline in responsibility
- Changes in appetite and/or weight
- Symbols from the drug culture (such as the marijuana leaf) on clothing, school notebooks, and posters
- Mood swings or Increased secretiveness, evasiveness, and privacy
- Changes in friends

The sooner you talk to your child, the better. Most likely kids who are experimenting or using drugs will become defensive or hostile when you bring up the conversation. Take that as another sign. Express your care and concern for your child while at the same time being firm about how you expect your child to be drug free—and why.



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