

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM: RED RIBBON WEEK AT HOME



TIPS FOR TALKING TO YOUR CHILD RECOMMENDED BY
U.S. DEPT. OF EDUCATION AND U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION



One of the most effective drug prevention tactics for children is active engagement with their parents or support providers. By allowing your home to be a safe space for your student, you are fostering trust and encouraging open communication within your family. Reflecting the concepts your child is learning in their MUSD classroom during Red Ribbon Week, you may use the following guidance to approach conversations about drug and alcohol prevention.



TK - 1ST GRADE

Young children ask many questions. Throughout early childhood – even when a child first enters school – the family plays the most important role in their development as they fully rely on adults for support and understanding. With this in mind, consider the following when first discussing drug and alcohol prevention awareness with your young child.



Young children mimic adults, so use every opportunity you can to share your feelings about substance use. When you see someone smoking, for example, tell your child that tobacco is bad, and it can cause people to get very sick.



Children this age typically listen as you explain things like paint or cleaning products that have unsafe ingredients in them. Use this attention to caution them to never take a drug unless you, a grandparent or support provider gives it to them.



Young children have short attention spans, so give short, honest answers. If you occasionally enjoy a beer on the weekend and your four-year-old child wants to taste it, try to divert their interest by saying, "No, this is only safe for adults. It can make children very sick. Let me pour you some juice instead."

Source: [Growing Up Drug Free: A Parent's Guide to Prevention](#)