

# 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.



## 2ND-3RD GRADE

**Children this age are eager to learn. It is during this stage of their development that you can talk to your child about the consequences of using substances, such as how it can lead to misuse and a substance use disorder, in a more in-depth way. With this in mind, consider the following when discussing drug and alcohol prevention awareness with your child.**



Repeat your message regularly. Remind your child that some drugs can cause severe brain damage or cause people to die. Explain how even small amounts of alcohol can make children sick and harm their growing brain, making it harder for them to learn and remember things in school.



Explain about good drugs versus bad drugs. Let them know that children should only take prescription medication when the adult in charge tells them to. Be sure they understand that even good medicine can make them seriously (or fatally) sick if it wasn't prescribed for them or they take it in incorrect doses.



If your child does not start conversations with you about drugs and alcohol, take the lead. Begin discussions using real-life events in the news or in your own lives. For example, if you have a family member or friend with a substance-abuse issue, use this as an opportunity to discuss the consequences drugs and alcohol use can create. You may also reach out to your child's school to discuss opportunities to participate in drug prevention activities on campus to help reinforce your stance for your child.



Children crave praise, so give it out freely when they reflect the important beliefs you have instilled in them about drug or alcohol use. For example, let them know they are "super smart" for disliking the smell of cigarettes and that you trust their ability to make good decisions.

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