

DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN CHECKLIST FOR EDUCATORS

The purpose of this checklist is to offer a guide to document circumstances of concern among children suspected of living in or exposed to dangerous drug environments. Many signs that may be present in a child may also be associated with other harmful environments.

Date: _____ School: _____ Name & Title: _____

Name of Child: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____

- Cleanliness of child
- Attendance record
- Pattern of absences, not weather related
- Hyperactivity or abnormal sleepiness
- Child appears malnourished
- Non-return of items for signature
- Frequent need of basic items (underwear, socks)
- Wearing urine-soaked clothing
- Sexually inappropriate touching that is beyond age-appropriate curiosity
- Smelling like chemicals or animal feces
- Parental interaction with teacher inconsistent with observations of the child
- Parental offering over-explanation of circumstances or events
- Observed impairment of parents
- Numerous non-relatives providing transportation for children to and from school
- Non-participation in school activities
- Child lacks self-esteem or refers to himself as “stupid” or “dumb”
- Child’s play is disturbing to watch
- Child lacks an interest in performance or over-eagerness to please
- Child asking to go home with school personnel
- Child cursing adults or other children
- Child demonstrating knowledge of drug manufacture, sale, or use
- Sore spots on child’s body without bruising
- Extreme bruising on any part of the body with various stages of healing evident
- Burns on the face, back of head
- Any bruising on ears, wrists, or upper arm
- Promiscuous behavior or drug experimentation

Questions to ask:

- Is there a demonstrated pattern of concerning circumstances?
- Do these observed items seem to impact the child’s mental, physical, or emotional health?
- Have past reports been made to law enforcement or social services?
- Have parent-teacher conferences been successful in determining circumstances are not solely due to family poverty or illness?
- Is there knowledge or a suspicion that this child is being abused or neglected? If yes, contact your local child protective services agency or call the National Child Abuse Hotline toll free at 1-800-4-A-Child (1-800-422-4453).

REMEMBER: If you are a mandated reporter, you are required by law to report any knowledge or suspicion of abuse or neglect. For more information, visit Childhelp at www.childhelp.org.