

Sample Letter to Parent/Guardian

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Today we started a program called Project ALERT in your son/daughter's class. Project ALERT is an age-appropriate substance abuse prevention curriculum proven effective in reducing experimentation among teens, and in reducing usage among teens who experiment.

Project ALERT contains eleven lessons in its initial year that focus on alcohol, tobacco, marijuana and inhalants - those substances that are the first and most widely used by young people today. Project ALERT's focus is on motivating non-use, learning to recognize pressures to use, and on developing and practicing skills to resist these pressures.

Our school district is committed to providing the most effective approaches to preventing the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in our schools and communities. We know that prevention of drug use and abuse is most effective when it is a partnership between the community, the home and the school.

According to a nationwide survey released by the Partnership for a Drug-Free America, youth who learn about the risks of drugs at home from their parents are much less likely to use drugs than those who do not. However, getting the message across is not easy. According to the Partnership's survey, virtually all parents (98%) reported talking to their kids at some point about drugs, but just 68% of the kids remembered the conversation, and only 27% reported learning a lot at home on the issue of drug use. Here is where the structured home learning opportunities within Project ALERT can help to focus discussion between you and your kids.

Your child will be bringing home five homework assignments that will involve you in discussion, sharing responses, and listening to oral reports. These Home Learning Opportunities will be for Lessons 1, 5, 6, 8 and 9.

Please be aware that this process and your responses will not be shared in class. These activities provide you an opportunity to communicate with your child about these important issues. If for any reason you are not comfortable with returning your responses to me, I will accept a note from you confirming the assignment has been completed. If you have any questions, please contact me at (enter teacher phone number).

Sincerely,