

Children's Connection Curriculum

Session Topic: Abuse (Drugs and Birth)

Developmental Level: Middle School

Purpose: To learn about the harmful effects of alcohol and drugs on fetal development

Materials: Harmful Effects of Drugs on Fetus handout

Description of session: Drugs/alcohol can cause serious physical and mental damages to a growing fetus. Many females say "I will quit when I get pregnant". The first trimester of pregnancy is the time of greatest risk of malformation or death and most women don't know they are pregnant until 6-8 weeks into pregnancy. Children whose mothers used drugs while they were pregnant sometimes need special medical care all their lives. Some might not be able to live on their own when they grow up, having trouble paying attention and learning, social problems or have drug problems of their own. Discuss the importance of healthy pregnancy along with the handout.

Discussion Questions: Talk about where to get information about drugs/alcohol during pregnancy.

Reference: Learning to Live Drug Free, A Curriculum Model for Prevention; US Dept of Education