

Children's Connection Curriculum

Session Topic: Abuse (We know that broken promises, blackouts, and denial are parts of the disease)

Developmental Level: Elementary and Middle School

Purpose: To teach children how to cope with broken promises.

Materials Needed: The King's New Clothes story (included), picture of man on a chair, (included)

Description of Session: Begin talking about what a promise is and compare to a broken promise. Encourage students to share about a time that a promise was made to them and then broken. Ask them to share how that made them feel as well. Read the included story. Explain how the main character in the story refused to accept reality and how he pretended that everything was okay when it really wasn't. Tell the students that the main character's pretending is, in fact, DENIAL. Teach the concept of *denial* and *pretending* by explaining that this is what sometimes takes place in a family where someone drinks too much or uses drugs. An alcoholic's or drug user's denial may sound like: "No, I haven't been drinking or smoking", "I'm not too drunk or high to drive", "I don't have a drinking or drug problem." Show them the included picture of the man on a chair. Allow time for them to look at what he is doing. Then ask the following questions: "What is this father doing?", "What would you say if you were denying that the father is drinking?", "What would the father say if he were denying that he was drinking?". Remind the children that *denying* is the same as *lying*.

Discussion Questions: Ask students if they see these same things happening in their family or neighborhood. Ask them how that makes them feel and what they can do about those feelings.

Reference: 12 Stepping Stones by Suzanna Diou & Lois Caldwell, p. 35-36