

Talk early and often about alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. Even when it gets tough.



Click here to print a PDF of this article so you can start a conversation with your child

Talking regularly with youth about the dangers of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs reduces their risk of using in the first place.

Know! encourages you to share this Parent Tip with friends and family.

Learn more at:  
[DrugFreeActionAlliance.org](http://DrugFreeActionAlliance.org)

Know! is a program of:



**Drug Free Action Alliance**

LIFETIME PREVENTION | LIFETIME WELLNESS



Link to the Parent Tip on the Drug Free Action Alliance Facebook page



Link to the Spanish Parent Tip archives

Drug Free Action Alliance  
6155 Huntley Road, Suite H  
Columbus, Ohio 43229  
PH: (614) 540-9985  
FX: (614) 540-9990

## Start Talking!

Building a Drug-Free Future



Teachers - You are encouraged to share the following information with your parent network.

## Know! To Interact with Tact – Smartphone Tips

You can expect many of your students to return from the holiday break with a shiny new smartphone in hand. For some, it may be their first cell phone, for others, it may be an upgrade. In any case, smartphones certainly have their advantages. There are all kinds of great educational apps and online resources available via smartphones. The number one reason parents cite for purchasing a smartphone for their child is that it provides location tracking and makes it easier to communicate with their son or daughter. Students however typically want a smartphone for the ability to connect with friends, download their favorite music, games and “non-educational” apps, and access social media sites.

While there is no magic age in which youth are ready for their first smartphone, 73% of teens either “own” one or have access to a one. Therefore, it’s a good idea to talk with students about what is acceptable and unacceptable smartphone behavior both in and out of school.

Youth are impulsive by nature, and that can get them into trouble when it comes to sending messages or using social media on their always-handy cell phones. Students must fully understand that once they send a text or post something online, it is out there for all to see, and they cannot take it back. Even if a message or photo is intended for one person only, they must assume others may see it. And those “others” may include someone’s parent, grandparent, a teacher or coach – which can lead to extreme embarrassment, hurt or even school or team repercussions.

Students must be taught to think before reaching into their back pocket to haphazardly text, tweet, snap, post or partake in whatever new tech craze pops up. In general, if a comment is not ok to say to a person face-to-face, then is it not ok to type it behind the “security” of their handheld computer screen. While such information may seem very basic and simple common sense, you shouldn’t assume your student has heard it before, unless they’ve heard it from you. Plus, they can only benefit from hearing it again.



Talk early and often about alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. Even when it gets tough.

Empowering Parents To Raise Their Children To Be Substance-Free



Click here to print a PDF of this article so you can start a conversation with your child

Talking regularly with youth about the dangers of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs reduces their risk of using in the first place.

Know! encourages you to share this Parent Tip with friends and family.

Learn more at: [DrugFreeActionAlliance.org](http://DrugFreeActionAlliance.org)

Know! is a program of:



Drug Free Action Alliance

LIFETIME PREVENTION | LIFETIME WELLNESS



Link to the article on the Drug Free Action Alliance Facebook page

Drug Free Action Alliance  
6155 Huntley Road, Suite H  
Columbus, Ohio 43229  
PH: (614) 540-9985  
FX: (614) 540-9990

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) shares the following tips to help children **Interact with Tact:**

**Politeness Counts:** Quick comments or texts can lead to misunderstandings. Before sending a message out, read it a second time and think about how it may be interpreted.

**Digital Body Language Matters:** How you type it can be just as important as what you type. ALL CAPS, **bolded fonts** and multiple exclamation points are all viewed as shouting!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

**Send Group Messages with Care:** Think about who really needs to see your message before including every "friend" you know. When replying to a group chat, consider the feelings of all who will be seeing your response. And if you choose to reply to just one person, double-check that you're not in fact replying to the whole group.

**Do NOT Impersonate:** Creating fake accounts in order to send anonymous messages or making it look as if a comment or post has come from someone else is wrong and can be extremely hurtful.

**Do NOT Bully or Stand for Other People Bullying:** This goes for on and offline. Treat others the way you want to be treated – with kindness and understanding. If online bullying occurs and your efforts of blocking them or telling them to stop doesn't end it, save the evidence and ask for help from a trusted adult.

A smartphone can be helpful and fun when used appropriately. However, this technology has disadvantages too. In the New Year we will take a look at some of the ways smartphone use can lead to hurt, harm and potentially risky-behaviors, and what you, as a teacher, coach or mentor, can do to set a positive example and keep life online in check for your students.

Sources: Federal Trade Commission (FTC): Living Life Online 2014. Pew Research Center: Teens, Social Media & Technology Overview 2015.

Visit [starttalking.ohio.gov](http://starttalking.ohio.gov) to get the conversation going !!!