HOW CAN I TELL IF MY CHILD IS USING DRUGS?

It is difficult because changes in mood, attitudes, unusual temper outbursts, and changes in hobbies or other interests are common in teens.

WATCH LIST FOR PARENTS: As a parent you should look for signs of depression, withdrawal and hostility.


2. Negative changes in schoolwork, missing school discipline problems at school, activity changes.

3. Increased secrecy about possessions or activities

4. Use of incense, room deodorant, or perfume to hide smoke or chemical odors.

5. Subtle changes in conversations with friends, i.e using more secretive coded language. For example, “four twenty” is a code name for a time to get high.

6. Change in clothing choices, such as a new fascination with clothes that highlight drug use.

7. Evidence of drug paraphernalia, such as pipes or rolling papers.

8. Evidence of inhalant products, such as hairspray, nail polish, correction fluid, and other common inhalants.

9. Bottles of eye drops, used to mask blood shot eye: or dilated pupils.

10. Missing prescription drugs - especially narcotics and stabilizers.

These changes often signal that something is going on and often that involves alcohol or drugs. Seek professional help in dealing with this problem.