

What Teachers Need to Know



Caregiver Addiction: Curriculum Development for Elementary School Teachers

Funded by NSATTC, SAMSAH, CSAT

Teacher Training



Develop teacher's knowledge about substance abuse and dependence

Provide models for integrating drug prevention materials into the curriculum and for adapting them to local circumstances.

Why Caregiver Addiction?



The effects of caregiver “addiction” on school age children link substance abuse/dependence directly to issues that concern classroom teachers.

Widespread Effects



“. . . Approximately 1 in 4 children in the US is exposed to alcohol abuse or dependence in the family at some point before the age of 18.”

Children of Alcoholics Foundation

At Risk Educationally



⌘ Academic failure

⌘ Absenteeism or tardiness

⌘ Learning disabilities

⌘ Depression, psychosomatic and physical illness

⌘ Aggressive conduct or acting out

National Association for Children of Alcoholics

At Risk for Substance Abuse/Dependence

“ . . . children of substance abusers are at much higher risk of becoming chemically dependent than are other students.”

National Association for Children of Alcoholics

Why Elementary Schools?

Of the three “bump ups” in drug, alcohol, and tobacco use among school age children, the earliest occurs between fifth and sixth grade.

Elementary school teachers are responsible for meeting health and physical education curricular standards in New Jersey.

Teacher Training



Elementary school teachers typically lack training in drug abuse prevention and in how to develop or integrate such materials into the curriculum.

Tools



- ⌘ Models for Understanding the at risk child
- ⌘ Protective Strategies
- ⌘ Adaptation and Evaluation

Understanding Kids at Risk

Deficits and Resilience Models

Models



Deficit Model

- ⌘ negative responses
- ⌘ capacity for decline
- ⌘ dis-empowerment

Resilience Model

- ⌘ positive responses
- ⌘ capacity for recovery
- ⌘ empowerment

Deficit Model



Role Adaptations

- ⌘ Lost child
- ⌘ Scapegoat
- ⌘ Hero
- ⌘ Mascot

Expectations

- depression
- dependence
- workaholic
- delinquency

Resilience Model

Resilient Children

have the inner
resources to
overcome adversity

Expectations

- ⌘ fulfilling relationships
- ⌘ problem solvers
- ⌘ humor
- ⌘ self esteem
- ⌘ verbal skills
- ⌘ goal directed

Protective Strategies



**Classroom Management,
Prosocial Lesson Plans, &
Evaluation**

Classroom Management



Standard classroom management techniques are effective in creating safe havens.

- ☑ Teacher: Notification, clear expectations, appropriate responses, and consistent follow-up.
- ☑ Student: Clear limits and accountability including rewards and consequences

Prosocial Lesson Plans



- ☒ What does it mean to be friends?
- ☒ Judith Vigna, I Wish Daddy Didn't Drink So Much
- ☒ Draw, tell, or write how to be a friend to Lisa.

Evaluation



**Curricular Standards,
Student Learning & Teacher
Portfolios**

Curricular Standards

From drug prevention:

⌘ the physical and behavior effects of drugs and alcohol; drug abuse and dependence, their impact on personal and family health, and resources for getting help; and finally how drugs and alcohol contribute to illness

Health and Life Skills



- ⌘ dangerous situations, protective strategies, and resources for help
- ⌘ decision-making and refusal skills

Student Learning



⌘ Writing

⌘ Telling

⌘ Acting Out

⌘ Drawing

Teacher Portfolios



- ⌘ Teacher's Reflections

- ⌘ Samples of Student Work

 - ☑ Successes

 - ☑ Challenges

- ⌘ Notes on Adaptations

 - ☑ culture, race, and ethnicity

- ⌘ Postings to Teacher Lists

Caregiver Addiction



- ⌘ Teacher Training
- ⌘ Resilient Child
- ⌘ Protective Strategies
- ⌘ Prosocial Lesson Plans
- ⌘ Evaluation