



The Kids on the Block Program on Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drug Prevention

Featuring: Eric Van Aart, Joanne Spinoza, Rob Watkins (optional), Valerie Perkins and Paul Worthington

Lots of people think kids who use alcohol or other drugs do it because they're having problems at home or at school or with life in general," says Eric Van Aart. "Maybe for some kids that's true. But for me.. it was really hard to NOT do something that all my friends were doing.' The use of drugs is a continuing problem in our society. Children may be introduced to alcohol and other drugs as early as elementary school. Studies show that the use of "gateway drugs" such as alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana at an early age is usually an indicator of future problems associated with illegal substances.

Through **The Kids on the Block Program on Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Prevention**, children not only learn about substance use and its effects on the body, but they also learn the necessary skills to help them make healthy choices. The package consists of five scripts, props, follow-up activities and resources to form a comprehensive curriculum on the topic. Script material includes information about alcohol and other drugs, peer pressure and learning how to make choices. The negative effects of tobacco use and the difference between good medicine and illegal drugs are also explored.

The curriculum consists of large hand-crafted puppets, five scripts, props, follow-up activities and resources. *A sixth script, "Partying Smart," accompanies optional puppet character, Rob Watkins.*



**CALL OR WRITE TODAY
THE KIDS ON THE BLOCK, INC.**

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Script Summaries

Starting Over

(Designed for late elementary or early middle school) Joanne is a reporter for her school newspaper. She is very excited about meeting her new journalism partner, Eric van Aart since he is friendly with Paul, a boy Joanne likes. When Eric tells Joanne that he and Paul are no longer friends, Joanne wants to know why. This prompts Eric to share his experience with alcohol and other drugs and an "innocent drinking game" that changed his life. **(Eric, Joanne, optional opening sequence includes Paul)**

Making the Right Choices

(Designed for late elementary or early middle school) Valerie Perkins is tutoring Eric in algebra. When Joanne drops in unexpectedly to invite Valerie to a party where kids will be using drugs and alcohol, Eric and Valerie ask the audience to help Joanne make the right choice for herself. **(Eric, Valerie, Joanne)**

Partying Smart (included with optional character, Rob Watkins)

(Designed for late elementary or early middle school) When Joanne learns that Eric has attended a "pre-dance" party at his friend, Rob's house, she is angry and confused. Joanne is confused in her belief that by "choosing not to use," Rob and Eric would also be choosing to abstain from social events like parties. Rob shares his commitment to "partying smart," which means having safe, drug and alcohol free fun with adult supervision and his parent's knowledge and consent. **(Rob, Joanne, Eric)**

Helping a Friend

(Designed for late elementary or early middle school) Paul Worthington has come to Eric's house to confront Eric about the "lies" Eric has been spreading about him. Instead, Eric talks to Paul about his increasing substance use and, with the audience, brainstorms ways for him to get help. **(Eric, Paul)**

It's Only Medicine

(Early elementary audiences) Joanne has a cold and is planning to take medicine her friend has given her. When Valerie hears this, she explains the importance of only accepting medicine from an adult who is caring for you, never from friends or strangers. The difference between medicine and illegal drugs is also discussed. **(Joanne, Valerie)**

Up In Smoke

(Early elementary audiences) Joanne is waiting for her mom in the food court at Woodburn Mall. When Joanne is bothered by cigarette smoke from a nearby smoker, it prompts a discussion with her friend, Eric, who has stopped by to drop off his entry in the "Smoke Free Woodburn" poster contest. Together, Joanne and Eric talk about the negative effects of smoking or chewing tobacco. **(Eric, Joanne)** Please inquire about an option for altering the ethnic balance of this script.

NOTE: After each script, the children in the audience are given the opportunity to interact with the puppets during a question and answer or suggestion period. The scripts, Starting Over, Making the Right Choices, may be performed together with Partying Smart and/or Helping a Friend in an extended "play-like" format. Each of the four scripts may also be performed independently.

The Kids on the Block, created in 1977, features life-sized puppets who, through the magic of live puppet theatre, teach children and adults about disabilities, medical and educational differences, and social concerns. Through the hard work and dedication of many community-based groups, **The Kids on the Block** puppets are able to touch the lives of people all over the world.