



Smoke Out the Dangers in Your Community: Drug Awareness

Materials

- Checklist, page H25
- Paper or stationery for each child

Before you start...

♥ *In advance, arrange to go on a field trip to some nearby stores. Make one copy of the Checklist, page H25, for each child.*

Today we are going on a field trip to “Smoke Out the Dangers in Our Community.” We’re going to find out if there are stores in our neighborhood that make it easy for children to get cigarettes and other tobacco products.

What products have tobacco in them? 🧠 *Cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco and dip/snuff.*

What are some the dangers of using these products? 🧠 *Cancer, heart disease, fires.*

Using tobacco products can cause cancer, heart disease and other serious illnesses. It is especially dangerous for growing children to use tobacco products. These products are addictive, which means that when people use them, it becomes very hard to stop using them.

Stores that sell tobacco products to children are breaking the law and hurting the community.

♥ *Go on a field trip to nearby stores. Have the children fill in their checklists. They will check to see if the stores have the following:*

- *cigarette vending machines*
- *tobacco ads*
- *self-service cigarette displays*
- *warning signs prohibiting the sale of tobacco products to children*

♥ *If possible, interview the store manager. Have the children ask questions such as these:*

- *How old does a person have to be to buy tobacco products? (18)*
- *It is against the law in all 50 states for stores to sell tobacco products to anyone under age 18? (yes)*
- *How can you tell how old a customer is? (Clerks should check a customer's ID.)*
- *If a child wanted to buy tobacco products, what would you do? (Clerks should refuse to sell tobacco products to children.)*

Community Involvement

♥ *When the group returns from the field trip, discuss the survey results. Invite the children to write to the store manager and describe the survey results.*

♥ *If a business has many tobacco ads and self-service displays, and if it does not have warning signs saying that sales of tobacco products to people under age 18 are prohibited, ask the store manager to stop making it easy for children to buy tobacco.*

♥ *If a business does not have many tobacco ads and self-service displays, and if it does have warning signs saying that sales of tobacco products to people under age 18 are prohibited, thank the store managers for not selling tobacco products to children.*

By shopping in stores that will not sell tobacco or alcohol to children, we can help to keep our community safe and drug free.

Smoke Out the Dangers in Our Community: A Checklist

Directions: With your group, check out a business in your community. Convenience stores, grocery stores, gas stations, pharmacies and restaurants are good places to check. Look around, talk to the store manager and answer the questions below:

Your Name: _____ Date: _____

Name of Store: _____

Type of Business: _____

1. Do you see cigarette vending machines in places where children could use them?

YES NO

(If YES, how many vending machines? _____)

2. Do you see any tobacco ads?

YES NO

(If YES, how many tobacco ads? _____)

3. Do you see cigarette packs in places that would be easy for children to reach?

YES NO

(If YES, how many self-service displays? _____)

4. Do you see warning signs that say the store will not sell tobacco products to children?

YES NO

(If YES, how many warning? _____)

5. Other notes: _____
