

When Gambling Becomes More Than a Game

Ginia Moorehead, Prevention Specialist, at the Children's Home of York is making her way around York County to start conversations and raise awareness about gambling addiction, or compulsive gambling. By day, she is facilitating workshops at senior centers. By the time the school bells ring, she is setting up her lessons and activities for elementary and middle school students in the York City area. Ginia is passionate and excited to empower members of her community to be proactive about their future.

Funding: This year, the Prevention Department at the Children's Home of York received funding from the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) and the York/Adams Drug and Alcohol Commission to provide gambling prevention services to both adolescents and senior citizens in York County.

Problem Gambling Prevention:

"Gambling Away the Golden Years," "In Search of Balance," and "Kids Don't Gamble...WannaBet?" are evidence-based curricula founded by the North American Training Institute. The children's version "Kids Don't Gamble...WannaBet," focuses on the practical realities of gambling within the context of math, language, life skills, and social studies.

Many adults are taken aback at the thought of a gambling prevention program, but research shows that, "**nearly 90% of teenagers** have gambled at least once in their lifetime." According to international surveys, young people are 2 1/2 – 3 times more likely than adults to develop a gambling problem.

The Problem:

Did you know that seventy to eighty years ago, gambling was illegal in the United States?

It is important that families understand that some advertising messages are promoting gambling as "legitimate, safe, and fun." At least that's the message kids have been getting. And, while the majority of young people do not become compulsive gamblers, the message can have a profound effect on a young person. Many young people start gambling before age 11, earlier than they experiment with alcohol or drugs. Some researchers believe that gambling may be a gateway to other harmful behavior.



Compulsive gambling has been called a “hidden disorder.” It isn’t detectable with a blood or breath test. Problem gamblers look no different than their friends.

Why Do Teen Gamble?

For many young people, gambling has very little to do with money. In reality, kids may gamble because of:

Problems at Home- Gambling can be an escape from reality

Poor Role Models- Most young people with serious problems were introduced to gambling by their parents or other adults close to them

Low Self-Esteem- For young people lacking in self-esteem, winning a bet or scoring big provides an instant, temporary boost in confidence

Join Us:

To learn more information about problem gambling among adolescents, we encourage you to attend our FREE after-school prevention workshop: When Gambling Becomes More Than a Game. Not only will your students share what they have learned about problem gambling, but we will also listen to one mother share her son’s journey of overcoming a gambling addiction.

If you have any questions or concerns about the program, please feel free to contact Ginia Moorehead via phone: (717) 755-1033 ext. 1240 or via email: gmoorehead@choyork.org.

Thank you!

Name: _____

Child’s Name: _____ Relationship to Child: _____

How many guests will be attending with you? _____

Please provide at least **one** of the following:

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Mailing Address:
