

INTERVIEW

... with LeRene Cracraft, Instructor



I've taught continuation school for six years and it is not unusual for student drug and alcohol abuse problems to start in the seventh grade. Many start as early as the fourth grade. Most parents are totally oblivious to what's going on. Most average kids do not get so far into dope that it takes something like this program to dig them out.

The success rate here is about 60% for the four years since it started. I try to get these kids into transition, teach them how to cope, help them get rid of all their old friends. If they slip they are out of the program. We have better luck with the guys than with the gals. I think that might be because boyfriends, especially if they are older, often supply their girlfriends with drugs and alcohol.

The soft way never works with these kids. We have to be hard-nosed and follow the rules right down the line.

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