



Sooper Puppy: Drink, Drank, Drunk

Theme

Saying No to alcohol

Background

Peer pressure has a profound effect on children. They must like themselves and their bodies enough to be able to say No to alcohol in the presence of peer pressure. Understanding the effects of alcohol on the body and mind will help them make the decision not to drink. In this videotape, Baxter, also known as Sooper Puppy, learns how alcohol affects the body and why it can be dangerous to health and well-being.

Outcomes

Viewers will

- recognize that alcohol is a harmful substance
- learn to tell the difference between helpful and harmful substances
- identify and resist negative peer pressure

Before Viewing

Talk with children about peer pressure and the ways in which they may feel they need to do what others do, even if it makes them uncomfortable. Use questions such as the following to get started:

1. Did you ever have a friend pressure you into doing something you knew you shouldn't do or didn't want to do? Why do you suppose your friend did that? How did you decide what to do? Why?
2. Do you think you have ever pressured someone else into doing something they didn't want to do? Why did you do that?
3. Do you usually follow the crowd and do what everyone else is doing? Or do you make your own decisions when you are with a group of friends? Is that always easy? Is it OK to do sometimes? Why or why not?
4. What does "being cool" mean to you?
5. What is alcohol? Tell what you know about it.

After Viewing

Encourage discussion of the videotape, perhaps by using questions like these:

1. Why did Baxter go to the party with Grizzle and Stoops?
2. Did Baxter enjoy the party? Why or why not?
3. What happened to Baxter on his way home from the party? Why did it happen?
4. How did Baxter feel the morning after the party? Why?
5. How did alcohol affect Baxter's body? How did it affect his mind?
6. Were Baxter's friends honest with him about the "spiked" punch at the party? Why do you think they did what they did?
7. What did Baxter decide about alcohol after Grandpaw told him the story of "The House on Body Street"?
8. What did Baxter tell Grizzle and Stoops the next time they wanted him to go to a party with them?
9. How was Baxter rewarded for his good behavior of saying No to alcohol?

School Activity

- Have children act out "The House on Body Street." Let them choose among themselves who will play the parts of the brain, heart, liver, stomach, and alcohol. They will enjoy making a theatrical "set" that looks like a body, and costumes for the players that may be simply large drawings held in front of the actors. In addition to being fun for the children putting on the play, this play can be instructive for audiences of other classes in your school.

Home Activities

Give each child a copy of Home Activities 3 and 4 to take home. Encourage families to carry out the activities with their children. It is not necessary to have children return the worksheets; they should not feel pressured if their families choose not to participate.