

# Primary pupils are urged to act drunk and 'take' ecstasy

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Education Editor

**AS PART** of a new drug awareness campaign pupils as young as seven are being encouraged to act out 'being drunk at a wedding' while 10-year-olds pretend to take ecstasy.

The roleplay is designed to teach children the dangers of alcohol and illegal substances before they are old enough to be offered them.

Not all teachers and parents approve of the advice given in a series of booklets for schools saying it could worry and frighten young children. But David Uffindall, a drugs education adviser for North Yorkshire, said that it was 10 to teach children about the dangers at primary school so they were not left vulnerable to offers from older pupils when they reached the secondary stage. Teaching an anti-drug message would give them the confidence to say 'no', he said.

Children from seven to nine are taught to understand the difference between medical drugs and illegal drugs. In the booklet *Drugs Centre Stage*, they learn about the effects of alcohol through a story called 'Cousin Susan's Wedding', which includes a character at the reception called Uncle Alex who does a chicken dance.

It tells how a young guest takes a glass of wine to toast the bride and starts to feel funny after a few sips.

"You can't stop yourself from giggling. The music gets in your head and you dance around and around," it says. Children aged 10 and 11 role-play taking drugs and the disastrous effects they can have.

One script features a boy who takes LSD and runs out in front of a car. In another role play they act out the death of a drug user. "I think Gary's ODe<sup>1</sup>". He's not moved for a week and he's starting to smell," says the script.

The texts use current jargon such as 'fix', 'cutting' drugs with other substances and 'hyping up'. Chris Scanlan, the creator of the booklets, said: "I know not every teacher will want to use all the information but it is there if they want it. Children as young as 11 are known to deal drugs. They are certainly not unaware of what goes on."

At Daubeney primary in Hackney, East London, Pat, who teaches 10- and 11-year-olds, said that drama and role play were more effective than a sit-down lesson on the subject.

noot 1 OD: een overdosis drugs nemen

- 1p 8 What is made clear in lines 1-5?
- A An increasing number of young schoolchildren are starting to abuse alcohol or drugs.
  - B The age at which children start drinking alcohol or taking drugs is getting younger.
  - C Young children at a party were brought under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
  - D Young schoolchildren are being taught about the dangers of alcohol and drugs via role playing.
- 1p 9 Waar verwijst 'them' in regel 9 naar?  
*Schrijf een deel van de zin uit de regels 6-9 over.*
- 1p 10 Kies bij 10 in regel 16 het juiste antwoord uit de gegeven mogelijkheden.
- A difficult
  - B essential
  - C not very smart
  - D too early
- 2p 11 Geef van elk van de volgende stellingen over schoolkinderen aan of deze wel genoemd of niet genoemd wordt in de regels 23-57.  
*Omcirkel achter elk nummer 'wel genoemd' of 'niet genoemd' in je uitwerkbijlage.*
- 1 Kinderen leren over de verschillen tussen verboden middelen en 'gewone' medicijnen.
  - 2 Kinderen zouden misschien onder begeleiding moeten kunnen experimenteren met drugs om later verslaving te voorkomen.
  - 3 Kinderen werken met teksten waarin woorden uit de drugswereld gebruikt worden.
  - 4 Er zijn zelfs kinderen die in drugs handelen.
- 1p 12 What do Pat (line 59) and David Uffindall (line 14) have in common?
- A They are both addiction experts by experience.
  - B They are both likely to support the anti-drugs message.
  - C They are both teachers at primary schools.
  - D They have both written booklets about drugs.

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#### Bronvermelding

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