



Education Bureau Healthy School: Tips for Parents

Published by Special Duty Unit 2, Education Bureau

<http://www.edb.gov.hk/antidrugforparents>

December 2015 (6th issue)

Healthy Life - Starts in family

To effectively handle and prevent improper behaviour from youngsters (including taking and trafficking of drugs), parents should help their children build up healthy lifestyle and positive values, thereby enhancing their refusal skills to temptation.

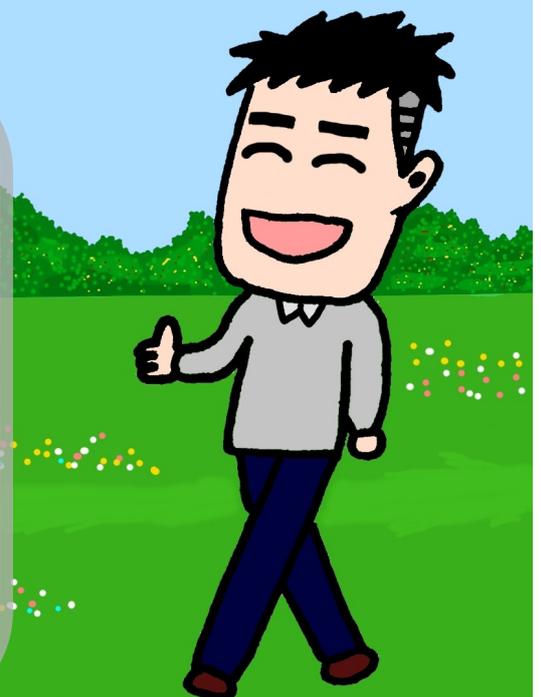
Maintain a balanced diet with children



Keep a regular daily routine



Develop a habit of regular exercise, improve mutual communication and address children's needs.



Young people are less criminally culpable when involved in trafficking of drugs?

(Based on a real case)

Andrew, a 16-year-old teenager, was formerly a secondary four student living with his parents and younger brother. Despite mediocre academic performance, his conduct in school was good. He actively participated in extracurricular activities such as volunteer work and often communicated with the friends he made on these occasions using WhatsApp on his mobile phone. One day, his strict father thought that Andrew was indulging in phone entertainment and smashed his phone out of anger. As mobile phone has become more or less indispensable to young people nowadays, Andrew wanted to save money for a new one by taking on a part-time job. However, this was forbidden by his parents.

Since then, Andrew started to loiter in the park, where he got acquainted with a gang of bad friends, including a drug dealer called Fred. Realising that Andrew was anxious to make money, Fred used \$300 to lure Andrew into trafficking drugs for him. Andrew accepted the offer without knowing how serious the crime could be. It was the first time Andrew had got involved in smuggling drugs. He was so nervous that he was intercepted by police officers on the way. Andrew was arrested after 14.1 grams of ketamine was found on him.



Andrew deeply regretted for what he had done. His parents blamed themselves for not teaching their son to be good and thought that both were responsible for Andrew's wrongdoing. They pleaded strongly to the judge for a mitigation of sentence. Though Andrew was only 16 years old when he committed the crime, according to the Laws of Hong Kong, trafficking in dangerous drugs is a very serious offence and normally the convicted will be sentenced to immediate imprisonment, no matter how small the quantity is. Andrew had pleaded guilty and produced proof of good conduct. Still, he was eventually sentenced to 2 years and 7 months of imprisonment after mitigation.



Do you know the maximum penalty for committing drug-related offences in Hong Kong?

Activity	Fine	Imprisonment
Possession or consumption of drug	HK \$1,000,000	7 Years
Trafficking in drug	HK \$5,000,000	Life imprisonment
Manufacture of dangerous drug	HK \$5,000,000	Life imprisonment
Possession of pipes and equipment, etc for taking drugs	HK \$10,000	3 Years



Parents should

- ✓ Communicate with your children and instill right concepts on money to them
- ✓ Arrange healthy activities with your children
- ✓ Be aware and educate your children on the legal liability for committing drug-related offences



Seeking help: **186 186** (Anti-drug Telephone Enquiry Service)

98 186 186 (Anti-drug Enquiry Service through instant messaging platforms - WhatsApp, WeChat)