



Risky Business

Club Drugs

Club Drugs- Activity 2

BAD THINGS CAN AND DO HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE! Have students explore the realities around repeated risky behaviour increasing the odds that something bad may happen to them.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION: Explore what students know about drugs & drug abuse.

- ➔ With the entire class or in small groups discuss and record (flip-chart, overhead, etc) answers to each of the following questions: (a) “What is a drug?”, (b) “Why do people experiment with alcohol and drugs in the first place?”, (c) “Why do some people go beyond experimentation and use drugs regularly?”, (d) “What is drug abuse?”.
- ➔ Have students brainstorm and record a list of the risks associated with substance abuse on the overhead, etc. Fill in any important points the class might miss, e.g. overdosing, FASD, family/work issues, etc. Emphasize the fact that risk can revolve around a range of incidents, e.g. auto accidents, unplanned pregnancy, STD’s, date rape, FASD child, crimes, etc. These incidents happen in large part because judgement is impaired.
- ➔ Introduce the concept of RISK - the fact that one can’t predict when drug use will result in a negative consequence and that you do not have your choice of negative consequences.

INTRODUCE THE GAME “RISKY BUSINESS”

- ➔ Using a deck of cards, ask what the odds are that any one card will be chosen (1 in 52).
- ➔ Ask everyone to think of a card and not to share it.
- ➔ Select a consequence from the student-generated list.
- ➔ Have a member of the audience randomly select a card from the deck. Before revealing it, ask the audience how they are feeling; how confident are they that the card selected is not theirs?
- ➔ Reveal the card. One of two things will happen:
 - ↳ No one in the audience will have the card selected – the same as in real life, just as when a group goes out partying and drinking/drugging and nothing happens. Ask the audience, “How does it feel to know that nothing happened to you?” [By virtue of nothing happening, people very often feel it is okay to continue the risky behaviour.]
 - ↳ One or more will have selected the same card as the one chosen. Ask those with a matching card how they feel to have had something happen to them.
- ➔ Ask the others how it feels to see something happen to someone else and not to you?
- ➔ Repeat this process 3 to 4 times until there are at least a couple of matches. The idea is to simulate real life - no one can predict, but by repeating a risky behaviour you are increasing the chances that negative consequences will happen to you or someone else.
- ➔ Repeat this activity with selected audience members using a coin. [Odds are 50 - 50]
- ➔ Discuss what difference it makes to you when the odds change? [People should be less willing to play (take risks) when the odds are 1 in 2 that something bad will happen to them.]
- ➔ Discuss - “How will this experience will influence your behaviour the next time you are drinking/using? Or will it?”
- ➔ Conclude the activity with the question, “How can we protect ourselves against bad things happening?”

CONCLUSION

Remind the class that in the real world the odds are even greater than with a deck of cards. The real world reinforces repeating risky behaviour - one feels bad things will never happen to you or yours. However if risky behaviour is repeated often enough, **BAD THINGS WILL HAPPEN**, and nobody knows when or to whom. The best defence is to minimize risky behaviour - maintain control of your judgement, express your concern for friends, family or others who put themselves, and possibly you, at risk because of impaired judgement.