



Parent Education & Encouragement Group
"Represents Parental Protection, Mercy and Nurturing"

Presented at: **Good News Church**
239 W Washington Blvd Pasadena 91103
English and Spanish classes on Thursday 6:30pm- 8:30pm

- 1. Communication, Active Listening, Acknowledging Feelings**
Comunicación, Escuchando con oído activo, Reconociendo sentimientos
- 2. Family Meetings, Effective Praise and Rewards /Conflict resolution**
Reuniones familiares, Elogio y recompensas
- 3. Parental Function, Defining My Parenting Style**
Función de padres, Definiendo mi estilo de crianza
- 4. Five-Step Problem Solving / Children's Court /Parent's Rights**
Cinco pasos para resolución de problemas, Corte de menores
- 5. Single Parent and Multiple Parent Families**
Padres solteros y de ambos padres
- 6. Domestic Violence, Self Control, Anger Management**
Violencia domestica, Autocontrol, Control de Ira
- 7. Teens and Gangs**
Adolescentes y Pandillas
- 8. Teaching Principles, Values / Family Rules / History of my Family**
Ensenando principios, Valores, reglas familiares y la historia de mi familia
- 9. Education Guidance / Show & Tell**
Orientación educacional, Enseñar y demostrar
- 10. Natural & Logical Consequences / Structure**
- 11. Mild Social Disapproval, Ignoring / Point System, Contracts and Bargaining**
- 12. Structure, Establishing Limits & Boundaries**
- 13. Human Sexuality and Teens**
Sexualidad Humana, El desarrollo sexual en los adolescentes
- 14. Family Health Nutrition and Child Safety**
Salud familiar, Nutrición, Seguridad de niños
- 15. Teens, Drugs and Alcohol**
Adolescentes, Drogas, Alcohol y Tabaco
- 16. Family Group Support, Skills Evaluation, Potluck**
Grupo de apoyo familiar, Habilidades de evaluación, Platillo para compartir

Daily Homework

Active Listening and acknowledging feelings
Five Step Problem Solving
Hug and Kiss your child

Homework Review

Lesson # 6 Domestic Violence, Self Control, Anger Management

New Material

Lesson # 7 Teens and Gangs

Homework Assignment

Write a paragraph:
1) What I learned
2) What I tried

Facilitators:
Horacio Garcia / Myles Williams / Elvia Casas
Program Director: Dr. Janice Woods

How to Recognize Gang Affiliation Behavior in Kids

By [Sheila Wilkinson](#)

Gangs are infiltrating suburban and rural neighborhoods and schools in every socioeconomic level. No areas are exempt now from gang violence as gangs are actively recruiting on playgrounds, in schoolyards and through the internet. Gang members no longer fit the rough streets kind of stereotype. There are gangs popping up in even the most privileged and remote areas.

Instructions

1.

Identifying behaviors that signal trouble--what do you look for? Sudden change is always an indicator of something being amiss. Pay close attention to any sudden changes in personality, associations, appearance and attitude. Specifically, look at the following areas:

2.

Noticing that old friends aren't around is a red flag. If there are new friends that you don't get to meet, you need to find out what's going on. An attitude of secrecy about new friends can be a strong indicator of gang involvement. Look for a young person suddenly developing a secretive lifestyle where they don't want to discuss where they're going or what they're doing anymore.

3.

Letting go of things they once enjoyed: Scouting, church groups, boy's club or even corner ballgames is a sure sign that something is wrong. Kids don't outgrow all their activities at once unless something is up. If they act like their favorite things and people and places aren't cool anymore or like they're somehow above all that, you need to be suspicious.

4.

Dressing differently: if they suddenly insist on only one certain brand, or they won't go out without one particular jacket or pair of sneakers, pay attention. Some gangs have one pants leg higher than the other. Some shave lines into their right eyebrows, or have a tattoo that distinguishes them. Seeing them with others that all have the same clothing or haircuts is a good indication that there may be gang affiliation.

5.

Speaking a new language. Kids may suddenly talk differently, using slang you've never heard or making up words. Some gangs swap out their c's for b's, as in bigarett for cigarette. They may suddenly become foul mouthed or smart mouthed or they may just talk about different subjects. Suddenly you may hear or overhear them talking about crime, fighting, weapons, cops, or overtly talking about gangs.

6.

Changing attitudes: gang members quickly are taught new attitudes. They may appear to be suddenly confrontational, arrogant, distanced, hostile or just cold or mean. They just seem to have a new sense of bravado.

7.

Coming home looking like they've been fighting: watch for torn clothes and bruises or bleeding. Watch especially for weapons as these are a staple of gang life. Guns, knives, switchblades and the like always mean danger, but they often mean gang danger in particular.

8.

Finding drugs or paraphernalia is also indicative of trouble anytime but this, too, goes along with gang life. Don't fall for weak excuses. Clean kids don't hang with users and they don't hide their drugs for them, either.

9.

Disappearing acts: Kids, who suddenly skip school, stay out until all hours and even disappear for blocks of time, are into something. This behavior may start with lame excuses, but it will grow into an attitude that what they're doing is none of anyone else's business.

10.

None of these things alone would be a strong indicator of gang involvement, but the more of these behaviors there are, the greater the chances of youth gang involvement. The best thing to do is to keep close tabs on your young person so that you'll be aware when small changes in their behavior take place. Knowing their friends, activities and keeping up with their daily involvements is the best protection from trouble you can find.

TIPS FOR INTERVENTION / PREVENTION:

- Be a good listener to your child and help them develop their self esteem.
- Watch for negative influences; meet and greet friends and parents of friends.
- Communicate with them about their hopes and dreams as well as their fears and concerns.
- Be a role model; show your children how to deal appropriately with conflicts and problems.
- Discuss the importance of school and good grades
- Emphasize good study habits.
- Establish rules and set limits. Be consistent and fair in punishment.
- Volunteer at child's school.
- Demand accountability for time spent, money and clothes.
- Spend quality time with children.
- Show respect for child's feelings.

Gangs

Although this table and information is dated, unfortunately, it illustrates that trends still have not changed since the '70's

Average Estimates of Gangs and Gang Members in Six Cities 1974-1975

City	Number of gangs	Number of members
Los Angeles	580	13,500
Chicago	443	7,000
New York	394	26,875
Philadelphia	244	9,800
Detroit	125	875
San Francisco	20	250

Source: Walter Miller 1975

The dramatic increase in the number of gangs from 1978 to 1982, which was most evident in Los Angeles, Compton, and Inglewood, occurred during the same time when unemployment was rising because of plant closures. A major phase of deindustrialization was occurring in Los Angeles that resulted in 70,000 workers being laid off in South Los Angeles between 1978 and 1982, heavily impacting the black community (Soja et al. 1983: 217). Unemployment at the expense of base closures and plant relocations has been linked, among other factors, to persistent juvenile delinquency that has led to gang development (Klein 1995: 103,194). Spergel found that gangs were more prevalent in areas where limited access to social opportunities and social disorganization, or the lack of integration of key social institutions including youth and youth groups, family, school, and employment in a local community, were found (1995:61). Also the type of community was believed to influence the prevalence of gangs, and neighborhoods with large concentrations of poor families, large number of youths, female-headed households, and lower incomes were key factors (Covey et al. 1997:71). In addition, poverty that is associated with unemployment, racism, and segregation is believed to be a foremost cause of gang proliferation (Klein 1995: 194). These conditions are strongly associated with areas plagued by poverty, rather than the suburban regions identified in this study.

What is a gang?

The police's definition of a gang is: a group of individuals, juvenile and or adult, who associate on a continuous basis, form an allegiance for a common purpose, and are involved in delinquent or criminal activity. This definition is simple and functional. It allows the police departments to take proactive law enforcement action normally before the gang gets an organized structure. The gang may range from a loose knit group of individuals who hang around together and commit crimes together, to a formal organization with a leader or ruling council, gang colors, gang identifiers, and a gang name.

How do they join?

Many kids are intrigued by the lifestyle of the gangsters and are drawn to them like magnets. They will "hang" with them constantly trying to prove their allegiance. They may be asked to commit crimes to "prove" themselves. Once they are proven themselves, they will be initiated. Initiation consists of a process that is referred to as being V'd in. There is usually a time limit set of ten minutes in which time the inductee will be beat on by a set number of members. They are allowed to kick and punch. Some gangs have rules where you are allowed to hit the victim anywhere on the body, while others don't allow blows to the head. The only reason the blows to the head are not permitted is so the beating can be easier to hide. The inductee is not allowed to block any blows. If he survives the beating, he (or she) becomes a member of the gang.

It never ceases to amaze me the violence and rules that the kids are willing to put up with in order to join and to belong to a gang. That is why once they become a member; it is very difficult to get them out. So the obvious solution is to try to prevent their involvement in the first place. This can be done by having a "ZERO TOLERANCE" attitude towards gang attire and gang affiliation. Keeping the child involved in sports or other activities will help to keep them occupied so they won't be tempted because of idle time. Knowing where they go and who they go with, and keeping in touch and having an open line of communication with their friend's parents will also help. But probably the most important thing you can do as a parent is to be educated and know what to look for.

Gang Structure.

1. **O.G.s**, original gangster. They are in it forever.
2. **Hardcore**. Comprise approximately 5-10% of the gang. These are the die-hard gangsters, who thrive on the gang's lifestyle and will always seek the gang's companionship. The hardcore gangsters will most always be the leaders and without them the gang may fall apart. The gang's level of violence will normally be determined by the most violent hardcore members. They are usually the shooters.
3. **Regular Members** (or Associates). Usually range from 14 to 17 years old; their jobs are robbing and stealing. They are money oriented. They are initiated into the gang and will back up the "hardcore" gang members. If they stay in the gang long enough, they will become hardcore. They usually join the gang for status and recognition. They will wear gang colors, attend gang functions, and may even participate in some gang related criminal activity all to fulfill their emotional need of belonging.
4. **Wanna-be's**. Usually 11 to 13 years old; their jobs are tagging and stealing. They are not yet initiated into the gang, but hang around with them and usually will do most anything the gang members ask of them so that they may prove themselves worthy of belonging.
5. **Could-be's**. Usually under the age of 10. Children of this age are at more risk when they live in or close to an area where there are gangs or have a family member who is involved with gangs. It is important to find alternatives for these children in order that they may avoid gang affiliation completely. Generally, the further into a gang that someone is, the harder it is to get out.

Make-up of Different Gangs.

- **Scavenger Gangs (Wanna-be's)**: Have no backing from the "real" gangsters. They get killed for using sect names. They are usually trouble makers. They are commonly found in the suburbs. They join gangs because they want to be cool and are nick-named "weekend gangsters". They are usually white and usually join the gang for the intimidation factor.
- **Territorial Gangs**: They protect their block, neighborhood, or city. They are usually Latino or Spanish, but sometimes are black. Their purpose is to keep their gangs in their neighborhoods and they join for respect.

- **Hardcore:** They want all rival gangs dead. Their main objective is to make money and to get rid of their rivals. They are mostly black, but some can be Spanish.

Gang Attire.

- **Dressing to the right or the left.** brim of hat turned to the left or right, pant leg rolled up, shirt collars turned up on one side only, any predominance of colors, colors displayed in wrist or ankle bands, shoe laces, rubber bands, barrettes, and bandannas, tongues hanging out of one shoe, earrings worn on one side only, bandannas or scarves hanging from belt loops, pockets, or tied to the leg. Eyebrows shaved or lines shaved through them. Small tattoos on the inside of the hand or between the thumb or index finger. Burn marks (brands) on the arms, hands, or chest. Look for writing on the inside of hat, or under the brims for gang writing.
- Some clothes that have strong gang affiliation:
 - **Chicago Bulls: People**
 - **North Carolina: Crip Nation, or Cobra Nation**
 - **Detroit Tigers Hat: Disciples**
 - **University of Texas/Long Horn: Insane Folk Heart; looks like heart with horns coming out of it.**
 - **L. A. Kings: Latin Kings**
 - **Green Bay Packers: "G" stands for gangster.**
 - **Georgetown: "G" stands for gangster**
 - **Seattle Mariners: "S" stands for rolling 60 Crip**
 - **Houston Astros: "H" stands for Hoover; folk.**

These are just a sample of some of the gang affiliated clothing . One thing to remember: No one wants to be mistaken for a gangster if they are not one. If your child absolutely refuses to part with an article of clothing because you suspect it could be gang related then chances are they want to be recognized as a gang member. Gang graffiti should not be tolerated; writing is common on school books, paper, etc. Hand signs are another way of identifying gang members. Any unusual hand gestures should be questioned.

Girls and Gangs.

Girls are attracted to gangsters because of the respect they think they will acquire once people realize who they are going out with. Little do they know that the guys are only using them for their sexual enjoyment. Very rarely will a gangster have a serious relationship with a girl who "hangs" with the gang. And in almost all cases where the girl gets pregnant, they guy will ditch her and the baby.

Girls do form their own gangs, and also belong to spinoffs of the guys' gangs. The girl gangsters can be just as dangerous and just as organized. They also are initiated in the same manner as the boys; by being V'd in. And don't think for a minute that these beatings aren't every bit as vicious as the beatings that the guys take. In some cases, if a girl wants to hang with the guy's gang, she has to be V'd-in in order to associate with them. This is done by one of several ways. The most popular of those ways being that the girl have sex with every guy in the gang (never using protection); and in some cases, the girl has to have sex with a guy who is HIV infected to prove her loyalty.

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