

Q. When a parent sees signs of drug use, what do you suggest they do?

Dr. Clark: If you've got a child whose behavior has changed fairly dramatically, the first thing you want to explore is whether drugs or alcohol are present. Because of denial, the kid is going to say, No, you're wrong, yadda yadda yadda. But parents need to keep that in mind, because behavior changes, loss of school function, loss of friendships, loss of extracurricular activity, behavior changes can be due to a number of things, but drugs and alcohol remain up there. And because of denial, you have to keep that in the forefront of your brain: Gee, the behavior is not changing to the positive, so something must be going wrong.