



Why kids join gangs

Most Common Reasons:

- Financial Benefit
- Portrayal of gang life by Media
- Excitement
- Protection
- Peer Pressure
- Desire for Friendship; Sense of belonging
- Family issues
- Low self-esteem
- Status and Reputation from peers
- Lack of adult supervision



Coloring inside of pockets for 'flagging' gang colors



Warning Signs:

- Shows unusual interest in one or two particular colors of clothing or logo
- Specific drawings of symbols on school books, clothes, walls and tattoos (same colors and logos as above?)
- Colored inside pockets or bandannas in certain colors
- Trouble with Authority figures (Police, Teachers, etc.)
- Withdrawing from family
- Declining attendance, behavior, performance at school
- Signs of drug and alcohol use
- Speaking in gang slang
- Use of hand signs
- Writing code
- Unexplained wealth (cash, clothing, jewelry, video games, etc)
- Unexplained physical injuries (bruises from fighting, cuts and bruised hands & knuckles)

Example of Gang Type Code

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Translation:

We are having a party tonight then painting the town with tags wear your colors



- Unusual interest in Gang related music., movies and video games

Preventing Gang Involvement

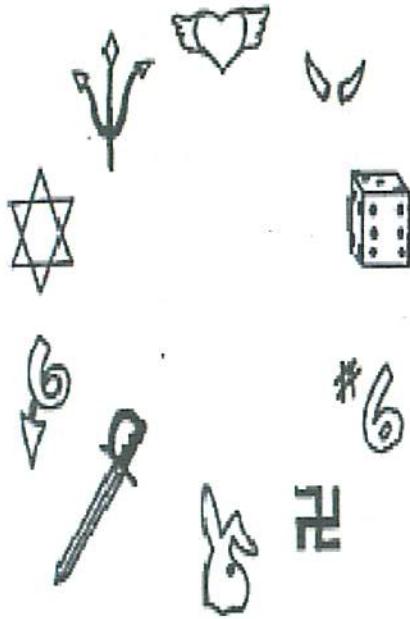
- Talk to children about the consequences of gang involvement
- Tell them not to associate with gang members
- Spend quality time with your child
- Help children to cope with peer pressure
- Encourage children to join structured after school activities with adult supervision
- Know your child's friends and their families
- Know where your child is going and what they are doing
- Encourage good study habits
- Talk with children. Ask them who and what gangs are in school. They know who they are and don't disregard what they tell you
- Tell your child not to wear clothing and colors that are meaningful to gangs
- Encourage local businesses to hire youth. Let children make their own money and build self confidence
- Volunteer your time & skills to teach children. All of us have some type of skill to offer (carpentry, baking, sports, painting, etc.)

Remember :

Concerned & Caring Adults can and do

Make a Difference

Some Symbols to look for:



Graffiti

4 R's of Graffiti

Read it - see if the graffiti has any known meaning to you or the neighborhood it is in

Report it - report it to your local police agency.

Record it - Graffiti may carry hidden messages. photograph it for future use and intelligence

Remove it - Graffiti should be removed as soon as

All Graffiti should be reported to your local police agency even if you believe it has been reported already. Many people don't report graffiti because it is not on their property that is why graffiti is one of the most under reported crimes. Many times this graffiti may mean nothing to you but has purpose for law enforcement agencies.

Helpful Websites

WWW.GRIPE4RKIDS.ORG

WWW.GANGSORUS.COM

WWW.COPS.USDOJ.GOV

NOTIFY YOUR LOCAL POLICE IF
YOU SEE GANG ACTIVITY

Thank You

Robert Maguire C.G.P.
Lackawanna County Prison



Gang Awareness: What you need to Know

