

Exercise

Possible impacts to children of experiencing substance misuse

Match the age of the child with the statement. You may wish to use different highlighter pens for each age range.

Hint: there is more than one statement for each age.

Newborn - 3 yrs

3 - 6 yrs

6 - 12 yrs

12 - 18 yrs

- 1 As the child may have witnessed violence in the home, the child may be imitating some of this behaviour which means they are starting to have behavioural issues in school.
- 2 Attachment is insecure because parent is too high to respond to the child's needs.
- 3 Basic care needs of baby are not being met, parent cannot afford milk or nappies because money is being spent on drugs.
- 4 Because of poor attachment to parent in the beginning of the child's life, the child is finding it difficult to form relationships with school friends.
- 5 Parents may not be advised to breastfeed the child because substances can be carried through the breastmilk and this would be dangerous.
- 6 The child begins to fall behind on schoolwork because they cannot concentrate in school, due to lack of sleep.
- 7 The child does not have any food to bring into school for lunch as there is none in the house.
- 8 The child feels like they do not fit in and has started hanging around with people who engage in risky activities, like smoking and drug taking.
- 9 The child has now fallen very behind on schoolwork and is under achieving and not reaching their potential.
- 10 The child is engaging in criminal behaviour and has been arrested several times.
- 11 The child is finding it difficult to concentrate in class and often falls asleep at school because at home the parent is having people around late at night.
- 12 The child is looking thin because they are not being fed regular meals as parent is too high to prepare meals for them.
- 13 The child is not attending regular medical appointments, like the dentist, and the child's teeth are beginning to go black.

- 14 The child is unable to form relationships because of poor attachment in early life which has resulted in the child looking to please other people and then engaging in criminal activities like selling drugs.
- 15 The child may come into contact with substances in the home if they are not stored safely and then may ingest them which can be very dangerous.
- 16 The child appears in grubby clothes, has unwashed hair and clothes smell damp and unwashed, because the parent is not washing them.
- 17 The child's behaviour has deteriorated in school and has resulted in being expelled.
- 18 The child's clothes are too small for them and have holes because the parent has not noticed to due to being too high.
- 19 There is no routine in place for the child because the parent is needing to spend a lot of time trying to find drugs. This is affecting the sleep pattern of the child.



Possible impacts to children of experiencing substance misuse

Answer Sheet

Newborn - 3 yrs

- Basic care needs of baby are not being met, parent cannot afford milk or nappies because money is being spent on drugs.
- Attachment is insecure because parent is too high to respond to the child's needs.
- There is no routine in place for the child because the parent is needing to spend a lot of time trying to find drugs. This is affecting the sleep pattern of the child.
- Parents may not be advised to breastfeed the child because substances can be carried through the breastmilk and this would be dangerous.
- The child may come into contact with substances in the home if they are not stored safely and then may ingest them which can be very dangerous.

3 - 6 years

- Because of poor attachment to parent in the beginning of the child's life, the child is finding it difficult to form relationships with school friends.
- As the child may have witnessed violence in the home, the child may be imitating some of this behaviour which means they are starting to have behavioural issues in school.
- The child is finding it difficult to concentrate in class and often falls asleep at school because at home the parent is having people around late at night.
- The child begins to fall behind on schoolwork because they cannot concentrate in school, due to lack of sleep.

6 - 12 years

- The child has now fallen very behind on schoolwork and is under achieving and not reaching their potential.
- The child is looking thin because they are not being fed regular meals as parent is too high to prepare meals for them.
- The child does not have any food to bring into school for lunch as there is none in the house.
- The child appears in grubby clothes, has unwashed hair and clothes smell damp and unwashed, because the parent is not washing them.
- The child's clothes are too small for them and have holes because the parent has not noticed to due to being too high.
- The child is not attending regular medical appointments, like the dentist, and the child's teeth are beginning to go black.

12 - 18 years

- The child's behaviour has deteriorated in school and has resulted in being expelled.
- The child feels like they do not fit in and has started hanging around with people who engage in risky activities, like smoking and drug taking.
- The child is engaging in criminal behaviour and has been arrested several times.
- The child is unable to form relationships because of poor attachment in early life which has resulted in the child looking to please other people and then engaging in criminal activities like selling drugs.

