



Talking to Your Kids About Gambling is a Good Bet

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(Green Bay, WI) – With another school year just ahead, the [Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling](#) (WCPG) is urging parents to take some time and talk to their children about gambling.

“Parents and others should be aware that teens and young adults are among the highest risk groups for developing gambling problems,” said [Rose Gruber](#), WCPG Executive Director. “It’s important for people to know that gambling can become an addiction. Awareness is an important part of heading off problems before they get too far.”

Gruber says parents should be talking to their middle school and high school age kids, as well as those heading off to college. “The independence of campus living may be an inducement to gamble for some college students,” Gruber says. “But the seeds are often sown at a much earlier age. This is really the first generation that has grown up with widespread gambling throughout the United States.”

As families prepare for the start of the school year, the WCPG staff is also gearing up for another year of reaching out to students across Wisconsin. WCPG added Outreach Coordinator Andrea Rathsack to its staff about a year ago. “Andrea’s done a great job talking to youngsters throughout the state,” Gruber said. “It’s more important than ever that people of all ages understand that gambling can become a problem and what signs to look for if there are concerns about someone’s gambling.”

Gruber says there are some key questions to address to determine if gambling has become a problem for a young person or anyone else:

- Is gambling the most exciting activity in your life?
- Are you preoccupied with thoughts of gambling?
- Do you miss school, activities, work or other events due to gambling?
- Do you borrow money to gamble?

- Has your gambling ever caused problems at home?
- Have you stolen from your family, roommate, friends or others to gamble or to pay back a gambling debt?
- Have you sold personal belongings to finance your gambling?
- After losing, do you gamble more to try to win your money back?

Answering yes to several of these questions may be an indication of a gambling problem. Help is just a phone call or click away at the statewide Problem Gambling Helpline – 1-800-GAMBLE-5 or WCPG’s Live Chat at www.wi-problemgamblers.org.

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For more information, visit the [Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling](http://www.wisconsin-council-on-problem-gambling.org) website, visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/WisconsinCouncilonProblemGambling or follow us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/wcpgambling>

If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, call the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-GAMBLE-5 or Live Chat through the WCPG website at www.wi-problemgamblers.org.

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