

Kids and Gambling: The Hidden Problem (cont.)

teens already have gambling problems. Educate yourself and then talk to kids about the risks of gambling -- don't let the only messages they see be those coming from the gaming industry.

2. Gambling is not a safe alternative to alcohol or drug use. Youth who gamble have twice the risk of alcohol and drug use and other risk behaviors. More young people are developing problems with gambling and it can become addictive.
3. Kids who start gambling early are more likely to develop gambling problems. Honest education about gambling is important to preparing young people to make responsible choices.

Resources

Problem Gambling Prevention:

Oregon Problem Gambling Prevention website: <http://www.problemgamblingprevention.org> provides a wealth of information and resources, including those mentioned in this article. Click on the following sections in the left side toolbar: AGE: Youth; Educators; Parents



Oregon Department of Human Services Problem Gambling Prevention Program Wendy Hausotter, Problem Gambling Prevention Coordinator at 503-945-9703.

Problem Gambling Help and Treatment:

Oregon Problem Gambling Helpline - 1-877-MY-LIMIT for 24/7 help or information via phone or go to <http://www.1877mylimit.org> for chat/instant message/email; it's free, confidential and it works!

Oregon DATA Project Training

More than 85 teachers and administrators from throughout Oregon recently completed three days of certification training with the Oregon DATA Project.

The training, which began February 22, prepares participants to teach the project's professional development courses on using data to help increase student achievement. During the intensive three-day course, educators reviewed key content areas and then practiced delivering the trainings. Certification was earned after a rigorous scoring procedure.

The sessions were conducted by trainers who completed the DATA Project's certification process last year. Participants—both trainers and trainees—came from ESDs and K-12 schools from throughout the state. Clackamas ESD hosted the event.

"K-12 and ESD participants from every corner of Oregon attended the certification training, building both capacity and sustainability of the Oregon DATA Project," says Mickey Garrison, the project's training director. "It was very well received and 40-plus participants already have reported using the strategies and techniques from the training in their job-related responsibilities."

In other Oregon DATA Project news, a face-to-face meeting for all 150 certified trainers in the state is scheduled for April 6 at Clackamas ESD. For more information, visit the Oregon DATA Project website, <http://www.oregondataproject.org/>, or email Mickey Garrison.