

Because children rarely come with an instruction manual and parents often fall short in possessing all the right answers.



The developing nature of adolescents, or the idea of youth, can be defined as a constant battle between what we are born with (nature) and what we learn (nurture). Research has shown specific social skills can begin development as early as birth with continued development occurring throughout life. Research has also isolated specific cognitive skills (such as effective communication and appropriate problem solving) are practiced and honed through choice and consequence or cause and effect. Simply stated, the nature of many adult skills may not be as naturally ingrained as we once thought and further seem to be influenced by daily interactions. Added to these developmental difficulties, research has also disclosed natural tendencies toward adolescent impulsivity and risk taking. The manner in which the adolescent brain is hardwired can literally cause our youth to try new things, struggle with identity, take risks, and seek adventure. Where these natural tendencies are meant to lead our youth to success in adulthood the same tendencies can also lead to catastrophic failure if left unchecked. As adults we have already developed crucial skills largely thanks to positive social interactions during adolescents. As parents our role seeks to assist our youth in developing the very skills necessary to appropriately interact with society (1).

Where the idea of youth can be described as developmental in nature it can also be described as frustrating for both parents and adolescents. Thankfully there is help in understanding the unique role parents and adolescents each play in this crucial process of development. Lindon City has developed an education series modeled for youth and meant to act as a guide for parents. Beginning **January 20th, 2011** and following every third Thursday of each month thereafter, Lindon City will present a new youth specific concept as part of a Youth Education Series we call YES. We have hand selected a group of local professionals (most of whom already associate with our youth) to present a different one hour topic meant to answer the not so obvious questions we all have. Monthly youth and parent participation is encouraged through the course of these presentations as we strive together to arm our youth with skills necessary to reinforce positive community interaction while avoiding delinquency, drug abuse, and addiction.



(1) - <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/chc/parenting/report.pdf>



January 20th, 2011 at 6PM

Officer Darrell Bingham will be presenting topics related to Choice and Consequence, the Nature of Drug Abuse and Addiction, and Delinquency Protective and Risk Factors. Officer Bingham currently works for Lindon City Police bringing almost 10 years experiences as police officer as well as experience as an Alcohol Enforcement Officer, a Drug Prevention Specialist, and a Juvenile Justice Councilor. Officer Bingham currently serves Lindon City as a Drug Recognition Expert, a Crisis Intervention Team member, the Alcohol Chair for SMART Utah County, and a PRIME for Life instructor. Officer Bingham has presented drug related topics to Utah State Legislative Committees, Utah County Key Leaders, Lindon and Springville City Councils, and students attending BYU.

February 17th, 2011 at 6PM

Judge Brent W. Bullock will speak on topics related to juvenile law and further offer a judicial perspective to delinquency. Judge Bullock has more than 30 years experience with criminal law and procedure through appointment as a justice court judge for Lindon and Pleasant Grove cities, private practice as a criminal defense and family attorney, and as a Pleasant Grove Police Officer. Judge Bullock currently serves as the UVU Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Chair and Associate Professor instructing in the field of Criminal Justice.

March 17th, 2011 at 6PM

Chief Cody Cullimore will address Decision Making including long term legal, social, and physical effects of choice. Chief Cullimore is a 29 year veteran Police Officer who was appointed as the Lindon Chief of Police in November 2007. Chief Cullimore has previously served as the Pleasant Grove City Assistant Police Chief, President of the Central Utah Detectives Association, President of the Utah Peace Officers Association and as a member of the Utah Peace Officers Standards and Training Council, the Utah Law Enforcement Legislative Committee, The Utah Strategic Planning for Law Enforcement Committee and the Utah Law Enforcement Education Committee. Chief Cullimore is certified as a Law Enforcement Litigation Specialist, has been a guest instructor at UVU and BYU, and a department head over Pleasant Grove Youth Court and Youth Council.

April 21st, 2011 at 6PM

Officer John Lloyd will offer current insight on marketing and social media trends targeting today's youth. Officer Lloyd has been a police officer for 25 years, working in both Pleasant Grove and Lindon Cities. He has spent 10 years as a School Resource Officer and 11 years teaching the DARE and NOVA programs to 6th grade students in the local elementary schools. Officer Lloyd is a certified RAD for Women instructor, a program which teaches women self defense techniques. Last year he implemented a Youth Court for Lindon City as an alternative to Juvenile Court for youth offenders. Officer Lloyd's passion is helping youth, educating them about making good choices in life and the consequences of poor choices.