

# Teachers and Childcare Providers

Learn more about meth.



Methamphetamine use does not discriminate between social and economic boundaries and often infants and young children are innocent victims of adult meth users in their own homes. Young students and children whose parents use meth likely come to school and childcare dirty, hungry, neglected, paranoid, sad and even angry. Children of meth-users, may also appear secretive and isolated because they are embarrassed and fearful of revealing their parents drug use.

Whether meth is being used for weight loss, achieve greater energy levels, or is the result of peer pressure, meth is also being used by healthy, intelligent teens – those involved in their community, school and church. Often parents are unaware of meth use signs and often if aware, are in denial that their child is using the drug. For students using meth beware that their behavior may be unpredictable, aggressive and even violent. Youth at risk for using meth need safe friends and adults that can guide them to make positive choices.

## BE AWARE OF SIGNS OF A METH USER

**Call law enforcement immediately if you suspect a meth user is present**

Common behavioral signs of meth use include:

- Incessant talking
- Extreme moodiness, irritability and severe depression
- Compulsive behavior, such as picking at skin or pulling out hair
- Repetitious behavior, like repetitively sorting or taking apart and putting together objects
- Decreased appetite
- General agitation and increased levels of physical activity
- Intense paranoia – anxiousness and nervousness
- Occasional episodes of sudden aggressive and violent behavior

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- Sight or sound hallucinations
- Disinterest in previously enjoyed activities

**Common physiological signs include:**

- Grinding of teeth
- High blood pressure
- Increased body temperature
- Insomnia
- Irregular heartbeat or chest pain
- Nausea, vomiting and diarrhea
- Shortness of breath
- Tremors

**Be aware of children that may come from meth-using homes:**

- children may be dirty, hungry, neglected, paranoid, sad and even angry
- children may appear secretive and isolated

**Call law enforcement immediately if you suspect a child is being exposed to meth at home.**

For more information, contact local law enforcement, or visit

**[www.stoptribalmeth.org](http://www.stoptribalmeth.org)**

Montana State University Extension Service  
Tribal Meth Education Training & Help Center  
National Congress of American Indians

**METH.**  
In Tribal Communities



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