Preventing T&T™ Dropout

Find the Preventing T&T Dropout interactive training module associated with this resource under the Club Specific category at awana.org/clubclinic.

Key Principles

• Research suggests that more and more kids are not only dropping out of church, but also sports, music and other organized activities.

• Kids still crave strong guidance from trustworthy adults, parents are still the single most influential people in their young teens life and adult leaders also have great influence.

Do you remember what your life was like when you were 11 years old? Let’s take a walk down memory lane.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Term &quot;teenager&quot; was first used.</td>
<td>• Beatles</td>
<td>• Drug use and sex is the norm</td>
<td>• First space shuttle</td>
<td>• Alcohol, drugs, sex common for teens</td>
<td>• Mp3 players</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Sock hops</td>
<td>• Race to the moon</td>
<td>• Pressure put on teens by media</td>
<td>• Computers and video games</td>
<td>• Dial-up internet</td>
<td>• DVD players</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Drive-ins</td>
<td>• Psychedelic drugs</td>
<td>• Public schools more tolerant of fashion</td>
<td>• Walkman</td>
<td>• Scrunchies, oversized t-shirts, jean jackets, and rollerblades</td>
<td>• Cell phones and text messaging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Sports games</td>
<td>• Vietnam</td>
<td>• Big hair and neon colors</td>
<td>• Hollywood images paved the way for eating disorders</td>
<td>• Teens divide into sub cultures (ie: punks, skaters, preps and jocks)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The culture youth live in today is really different from when you were a kid. Fifth and sixth graders are exposed to more. Most kids in the U.S. today have only known a world where everything is accessible in an instant.

Can we, at Awana, keep up with the changes in culture and continue to engage the hearts and minds of young people? Absolutely! Kids still crave strong guidance from trustworthy adults, parents are still the single most influential people in their young teens life and adult leaders also have great influence.

Next time you look at a group of preteens, challenge yourself to consider the positive aspects of what you are seeing. See the best in kids and culture and discuss with other leaders how to embrace changes you see in the kids in your club.

**Awana is built on strong leadership.** Awana works because of you and your commitment to help kids come to know, love and serve God.

**Awana is also fun and exciting.** The youth ministry of Awana emphasizes that Awana is fun, exciting and relevant to everyone. That includes the kids in these drop-out years.
Tips

Clubbers this age are much more relational than Sparkies or even third or fourth graders. The older kids get, the more they interact with one another in significant ways.

**Capitalize on the importance of peers** by treating your clubbers as a group. Motivate them together! For example, if everyone in your handbook group completes three sections, then everyone gets a pack of trading cards.

Kids this age want to be unique!

Fifth and sixth graders are now Ultimate Challengers. Still T&T, but a little separate from younger clubbers. **Let them personalize** their uniforms with awards and patches.

Many kids this age are concerned about the world and want to make a difference.

Show them how **Scripture is related to their concerns**. Prayerfully consider some new ideas to excite your older clubbers in Awana.

---

**Stop and Think**

Are you seeing more and more kids walking out of your churches doors and not coming back?

How will you intentionally relate to your older T&T clubbers?

---

**Resources**

Watch the Club Clinic module
**From T&T to Youth Group**

*Find it: awana.org/clubclinic under the Club Specific category*

T&T Forums

*Find it: awana.org/ART*

Questions? Contact us at leadershiptraining@awana.org.