



OPERATION LODESTAR

LODESTAR: one who serves as a guide or model.

In 2010 the Abbotsford Police Department launched “Operation LodeStar”. The message: crime prevention starts at home. Crime education should not be limited to schools and educational institutions where the focus is only on young people. Parents and other caregivers play a crucial role in public safety, and crime prevention should start at an early age. Most parents are good role models and do their best to teach their children right from wrong. But for many children, there is a greater chance of participating in criminal activity because of adverse family conditions or “risk factors”. These experiences in a child’s life can be associated with an increase in problem behaviour, such as gang involvement, drug use, violence, and other criminal or delinquent activity, and work together to increase a child’s chances of getting into trouble.

There are a number of things parents or caregivers can do to buffer the risk of their children engaging in delinquent activity. These protective factors are positive influences that mitigate the impact of risk factors and decrease the likelihood of problem behaviour.

In its simplest terms, children need their parents and guardians to be involved in their growth and development. There are a number of things parents or caregivers can do to mitigate the risk factors leading to criminal behaviour, including:

- ✓ setting the example
- ✓ being informed
- ✓ supporting school
- ✓ making the rules
- ✓ getting involved

13 parent presentations
3 translated in Punjabi
3,000 + adults

*“When I grow up,
I want to be just like Daddy.”*



Kids learn what they live.

Only 25% of Abbotsford students said they had a positive adult role model.

Be the parent your child needs.



CONTACT

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Learn more at www.abbypd.ca by clicking on GANGBUSTERS.

FACT According to Abbotsford residents, crime is the most important issue facing our community.^[1]

Parents are part of the solution.

More **FACTS** Worth Thinking About

Some things you can do as a parent or guardian:

1. Set the Example: *What you do matters.*

FACT Children of parents who do not model positive or responsible behaviour are more likely to engage in risk-taking behaviour, such as gang involvement.^[2]

FACT Only 25% of Abbotsford students said they had parent(s) and other adults that modeled positive, responsible behaviour.^[3]

2. Be Informed: *Know where your children are and what they're doing.*

FACT There is a strong relationship between low parental monitoring and violent delinquency.^[4]

FACT Only 38% of Abbotsford students said their parents monitored their whereabouts.^[5]

3. Support School: *Place a high value on education.*

FACT Children who don't like school, don't think grades are important, and don't want to go far in school are more likely to be involved in aggressive acts.^[6]

FACT 89% of men ages 18-24 entering a federal correctional facility had not completed high school.^[7]

FACT Only 18% of Abbotsford students said their parent(s) were actively involved in helping them succeed in school.^[8]

4. Make the Rules: *Set clear limits and expectations.*

Like guard rails on a bridge, rules create safety. Be fair, consistent, and follow through with discipline.

FACT Only 38% of Abbotsford students said they had clear family rules and consequences.^[9]

5. Get Involved: *Look after your child's interests.*

Help children protect themselves. Talk to them about the dangers of gangs and drugs. Let them know they can talk to you. Teach them to think for themselves and act responsibly. If you have good communication with your child they will be more likely to ask your advice than turn to peers.

FACT Only 29% of Abbotsford students said they communicate positively with their parent(s) and that they would be willing to seek their parent(s) advice or counsel. In the same survey, only 30% of students said they know how to plan ahead and make choices.^[10]

Every choice has a consequence.

www.abbypd.ca



References:

[1] Ipsos Reid, 2010 Citizen Satisfaction Syndicated Study, City of Abbotsford, June 2010.

[2] CSGV Risk and Protective Framework: Building Protective Factors Around Children, Young People and Families to Prevent Gang Involvement, Community Solution to Gang Violence, October 2006.

[3, 5, 8, 9, 10] Developmental Assets: A Profile of Your Youth Executive Summary Results from the Search Institute Survey, Profiles of Student Life: Attitudes and Behaviors School District #34, Abbotsford, BC, August 2009 at p. 1-3. 5,384 students in grades 8 to 12 were surveyed.

[4] Statistics Canada, January 2010. Parenting, School Contexts and Violent Delinquency, Catalogue no. 85-561-M, no. 19, p. 12.

[6] Statistics Canada, May 2001. Problem Behaviour and Delinquency In Children and Youth, Catalogue no. 85-002-XPE, Vol. 21 no. 4, p. 9.

[7] Forum on Corrections Research. Roger Boe. Vol 17, No: 1. (2005) Offender Employment.