

CHARACTERISTICS OF EFFECTIVE AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

- Respond to the needs and interests of youth.
- Includes a mix of youth and not just youth who are at-risk.
- Integrated into a comprehensive prevention program that reinforces its lessons and addresses specific factors that influence drug use.
- Promote positive development and resilience of youth by enhancing their competence and sense of autonomy and purpose.
- Extend the reach of prevention efforts to youth who are at high risk for, or have already tried using, alcohol or drugs, as well as families and communities.
- The activities are challenging and promote the development of social and personal skills, maintain high expectations, and teach the skills needed for success.
- Maintain an encouraging, cooperative, supportive, but structured environment that emphasizes participation and collaboration rather than competition.
- Youth are involved in planning and running the program, and serve as a resource to their peers and their community.