

Do you....

Feel too embarrassed to take friends home?

Keep secrets about the problems affecting your family?

Tell lies to cover up for someone else's drinking?

Feel guilty and don't know why? Feel different from other children?

Feel confused when mum or dad change when they drink?

Feel nobody really cares what happens to you?

Think no one could understand how you feel?

*"Nobody knows what it's like at home and I don't have the bottle to tell them. I don't think my mum would approve but I need someone to talk to and know what it's like. I really can't deal with it anymore."
Charlie, age 12*

Things to remember

- You are not alone
- When a parent has a drink problem, it affects the whole family
- It's not your fault
- It's OK to hate the problem and love the person who is drinking
- There are people and places that can help you and your parents
- You can feel better even if mum or dad don't stop drinking
- Talking can help you to feel less alone

The Nacoa Promise

- We are here to listen
- We won't judge
- We are here to help for as long as you want
- What you say will remain confidential

Ways to feel better

Talk to someone you trust

Talking about how you feel is not telling on your family.

Find time for things you like

Doing enjoyable things at school or near home is important. Sometimes worries can take over and taking a break can help.

Talk to Nacoa

We understand the problem and you can trust us. You can talk to us on the phone, send an email, or use our online message boards. Talking can help you understand some of the confusing feelings.

Read other children's stories

Reading the stories of other children can help you to feel less alone. You can find stories on the Nacoa website.

**Visit our website
Nacoa.org.uk for lots more
information and support**



Free helpline

- Information and on-going support
- For all ages
- Your call won't show up on a landline bill
- You can tell us as little or as much as you want
- There is no need to give us your name
- You do not need to tell anyone else you are talking to us
- You can talk as often as you want



Call

0800 358 3456



Email

helpline@nacooa.org.uk



Message Boards

nacooa.org.uk/messageboards

You can also find 24 hour support at ChildLine on 0800 1111

Nacooa was founded in 1990 to address the problems faced by children growing up in families where one or more parents suffer from alcoholism or a similar addictive problem. This includes children of all ages, many of whose problems only become apparent in adulthood.

Nacooa's aims

- To offer information, advice and support to children of alcohol-dependent parents
- To reach professionals working with them
- To raise their profile in the public consciousness
- To promote research into the problems they face and the prevention of alcoholism developing in this vulnerable group

Our services are funded by voluntary donations. Please support this vital work by becoming a member, volunteering or making a donation. Together we can make a difference.

Text HELP21 followed by the amount (£20, £10 or £5) to 70070 or visit nacooa.org.uk/getinvolved

"Finding someone I felt comfortable talking to was the beginning of everything changing for me. Without your help, I could have spent the rest of my life watching Mum drink herself to death. Now I know there is help for Mum and for me." Paul, 15

Patrons

Tony Adams MBE • Olly Barkley • Calum Best • Liam Byrne MP
Lauren Booth • Geraldine James OBE • Cherie Lunghi
Elle Macpherson • Suzanne Stafford CQSW • David Yelland

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Some mums & dads drink too much.....

