



Office of Public Information:
801-538-6339 or 801-541-3783

News Release

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Contacts:

Jenna McAllister

Tobacco Prevention Program

Utah Department of Health

801-538-9283

Verne Larsen

Prevention specialist

Utah State Office of Education

801-538-7500

Compact Disc Helps Fifth Grade Students Discuss the Dangers of Tobacco with their Parents

(Salt Lake City, UT)- Students at Edison Elementary School this morning helped the Utah Department of Health (UDOH) and the Utah State Office of Education (USOE) to launch the Prevention Dimensions program "Clear the Air" compact disc (CD). The "Clear the Air" CD and informational packet are to be used by fifth grade students and their parents as a tobacco prevention resource guide.

The Prevention Dimension's "Clear the Air" CDs are being sent out today to the homes of 40,000 Utah fifth grade students. The CD is presented by the USOE and is sponsored and funded by the UDOH and Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities. The information provided on the "Clear the Air" CD compliments lessons taught in the fifth grade classrooms statewide. Prevention Dimensions is a comprehensive program providing resources to assist teachers in teaching the objectives of the State Health Core Curriculum.

"We urge parents to take the opportunity to listen to this entertaining, musical CD with their child and talk with them about the dangers of tobacco," stated Verne Larsen, prevention specialist, USOE. "Since the average age of Utah kids who start using tobacco is 12.5*, we decided to target the fifth grade students because the earlier the prevention starts, the more successful it will be."

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“Teachers are a valuable resource for communicating this information, but parents need to be involved and the CD makes it easy to talk about tobacco,” says Jenna McAllister, Tobacco Prevention Program, UDOH.

This morning’s kick-off included a welcome from Edison Principal Julie Miller, a presentation by the USOE’s Verne Larsen and Mike Cottam, as well as a performance of songs on the CD by the songs’ artists, the Edison Elementary fifth grade students and the Center Stage Dancers from Utah County.

For additional information about the CD, contact the USOE at 801-538-7713. For additional information on tobacco, parents can call the UDOH’s Tobacco Resource Line at 1-877-220-3466.

**1999, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Data*

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