

Signs that your child may be in a gang

- Is obsessed with one particular color of clothing
- Shows a desire for a particular logo over and over
- Initiation marks- scratches or marks on face, arms and hands
- New haircuts either long or short
- Wears excessive jewelry with a distinctive design
- Change in normal language patterns
- Develops an unusual desire for privacy and secrecy
- Use of hand signs to communicate with other youth
- Breaking curfew for unexplained reasons
- Sudden possessions of large amounts of money
- Sudden possession of items they can not account for
- Never home
- New friends that have not been introduced to the parents
- Child being called by a new nickname
- Failing grades
- Lack of interest in school
- Skipping classes or just not attending
- Disobeys or challenges authority
- Particular drawing on walls and school books
- Particular new language when talking
- New taste in music
- Tattoos
- Admits to being in a gang

Note: These do not determine with 100% certainty that your child is in the gang. They are a good indicator that he or she might be either be starting or thinking about joining. Take action now and prevent this problem early.