

Skills for the  
Primary School Child  
Part 4

# Substance and Solution



# Substance and Solution:

*educating the primary school child about volatile substances*

## Foreword

The widespread tendency amongst young people and children to experiment with Volatile Substance Abuse (VSA) is an issue which continues to attract concern. It is a problem which needs to be tackled on every front.

The products which are subject to this abuse are all everyday household items which are safe in proper use. However, in the abusers' hands they can cause damage to physical and mental health. Their abuse can cause death, maybe the first time or the hundredth time, so experimenters and long-term users are equally at risk.

Education about the risks associated with this behaviour has long been identified as one of the keys to ensuring that VSA becomes a diminishing problem in our society, and it is recognised that this should come at an early age. Evidence has shown that young children have a highly developed knowledge of substances which can be used and abused, often way beyond that of the adults around them who may be quite unaware.

Over the years, the British Aerosol Manufacturers' Association has been actively involved in many initiatives with schools, parents, health workers, retailers and industry to ensure that they are aware of the issues surrounding the problem. We are very pleased to have linked up with the Department of Health and **TACADE** in producing this pack, **Substance and Solution**, to help schools and teachers to tackle the issue of VSA through personal and social and health education, (PSHE) and other parts of the curriculum.

It is a major piece in the jigsaw puzzle that will help children to make informed decisions about keeping themselves safe. I hope that you will find the material creative as well as supportive.

Sue Rogers

*Director*

*British Aerosol Manufacturers' Association*

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# Some of the effects of misusing volatile substances

## WHAT ARE SOME OF THE VOLATILE SUBSTANCES THAT PEOPLE MISUSE?

Pupil Sheet 3 describes some of the volatile substances that are in common use in our society. Many of these products may be misused by some people.

## WHY DO SOME PEOPLE MISUSE VOLATILE SUBSTANCES?

