

Underage Gambling

Written by: Noah Vinson

While children are growing up, they make habits; these habits carry over into that child's adulthood, and determines if they will clean their room or not, brush their teeth every morning when they wake up and every night before they go to bed, or wake up on time for work. These are all determined by the actions you take and the habits you form when you are growing up. Habits formed are not all as unimportant as a clean room however, the habits you form growing up can have serious consequences. Underage gambling is a serious problem in world today, especially with how much we know about our brains and what we are prone to. Gambling, if done too much, can become an addiction and if a child chooses to begin gambling while they are still growing up, they have a very serious chance to fall victim to this addiction, especially because the habits we make while we are young usually carry with us into adulthood. Many people may read this and think it is not a big deal, how serious can gambling be? I have had friends and family gamble rent money and money they need to buy food or gas to make it to and from work and lose it all because their addiction is just too strong, many of these habits are made when you are still growing into adulthood, and the problem is we aren't fully aware of what our actions may bring because our prefrontal cortex, the part of the brain we use in order to predict future outcomes isn't fully developed until we are 25. Underage gambling is a serious problem and can lead to serious addictions that could cause you to lose your home, your family and your friends. The repercussions are also serious as you could be fined, your winnings could be taken away and you could receive a criminal charge which would appear on your criminal record if you are caught. This would mean you lose money, no matter if you won big, you would receive a criminal charge that would prevent you from being considered for colleges and make it even

more difficult to find a job, which is already hard enough. No matter what way you look at it, underage gambling is nothing but negative, you're risking your life, your happiness and your future in order to make a bet and most likely lose money. I would encourage anyone younger than the minimum age of those able to gamble to stay away from it as it does nothing, but deter your life, your plans and your goals for your future.