



# BRIGHT FUTURES HANDOUT ► PARENT

## 15 THROUGH 17 YEAR VISITS

Here are some suggestions from Bright Futures experts that may be of value to your family.

### ✓ HOW YOUR FAMILY IS DOING

- Set aside time to be with your teen and really listen to her hopes and concerns.
- Support your teen in finding activities that interest him. Encourage your teen to help others in the community.
- Help your teen find and be a part of positive after-school activities and sports.
- Support your teen as she figures out ways to deal with stress, solve problems, and make decisions.
- Help your teen deal with conflict.
- If you are worried about your living or food situation, talk with us. Community agencies and programs such as SNAP can also provide information and assistance.

### ✓ YOUR GROWING AND CHANGING TEEN

- Make sure your teen visits the dentist at least twice a year.
- Give your teen a fluoride supplement if the dentist recommends it.
- Support your teen's healthy body weight and help him be a healthy eater.
  - Provide healthy foods.
  - Eat together as a family.
  - Be a role model.
- Help your teen get enough calcium with low-fat or fat-free milk, low-fat yogurt, and cheese.
- Encourage at least 1 hour of physical activity a day.
- Praise your teen when she does something well, not just when she looks good.

### ✓ YOUR TEEN'S FEELINGS

- If you are concerned that your teen is sad, depressed, nervous, irritable, hopeless, or angry, let us know.
- If you have questions about your teen's sexual development, you can always talk with us.

### ✓ HEALTHY BEHAVIOR CHOICES

- Know your teen's friends and their parents. Be aware of where your teen is and what he is doing at all times.
- Talk with your teen about your values and your expectations on drinking, drug use, tobacco use, driving, and sex.
- Praise your teen for healthy decisions about sex, tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs.
- Be a role model.
- Know your teen's friends and their activities together.
- Lock your liquor in a cabinet.
- Store prescription medications in a locked cabinet.
- Be there for your teen when she needs support or help in making healthy decisions about her behavior.

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## ✓ SAFETY

- Encourage safe and responsible driving habits.
  - Lap and shoulder seat belts should be used by everyone.
  - Limit the number of friends in the car and ask your teen to avoid driving at night.
  - Discuss with your teen how to avoid risky situations, who to call if your teen feels unsafe, and what you expect of your teen as a driver.
  - Do not tolerate drinking and driving.
- If it is necessary to keep a gun in your home, store it unloaded and locked with the ammunition locked separately from the gun.

Consistent with *Bright Futures: Guidelines for Health Supervision of Infants, Children, and Adolescents*, 4th Edition

For more information, go to <https://brightfutures.aap.org>.

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