

1. Be clear about your own sexual values and attitudes.
2. Talk with your children about sex, and be specific.
3. Supervise and monitor your children. Involve them in organized after-school activities.
4. Know your children's friends and families.
5. Take a strong stand against your daughter spending time with a boy significantly older than she. Don't allow your son to develop an intense relationship with a girl much younger or older than he.
6. Help your teenagers have options for the future that are more attractive than early pregnancy and parenthood.
7. Let your kids know that you highly value education.
8. Know what your kids are reading, watching, learning and listening to.

Here are some tips to help you have "the talk" with your kids, National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy's website, [www.teenpregnancy.org](http://www.teenpregnancy.org).



## Ten Things Teens Want Adults To Know About Teen Pregnancy

- ◆ "Show us why teen pregnancy is such a bad idea."
- ◆ "Show us what good responsible relationships look like."
- ◆ "Talk to us honestly about love, sex, and relationships."
- ◆ "Telling us not to have sex, is not enough."
- ◆ "Whether we're having sex or not, we need to be prepared."
- ◆ "If we ask you about sex or birth control, don't assume we are already doing it."
- ◆ "Pay attention to us before we get into trouble."
- ◆ "Don't leave us alone so much; spend time with us."
- ◆ "We really care what you think, even if we don't always act like it."



### Useful Websites

- [www.teenpregnancy.org](http://www.teenpregnancy.org)
- [www.iwannaknow.org](http://www.iwannaknow.org)
- [www.greattowait.com](http://www.greattowait.com)

- [www.lifeway/tlw/.com](http://www.lifeway/tlw/.com)
- [www.teenhealth.org](http://www.teenhealth.org)
- [www.teenrelationships.org](http://www.teenrelationships.org)



A program of the  
**Healthy Start Coalition  
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*Polk County  
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Heartland for Children  
Polk Health Care Alliance*

**Healthy Start Coalition  
of Hardee, Highlands  
& Polk Counties, Inc.**

**301 3rd Street NW, Ste. 200  
Winter Haven, FL 33881  
863-297-3043  
[www.healthystarthhp.org](http://www.healthystarthhp.org)**



## What is the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Alliance?

The Teen Pregnancy Prevention Alliance (TPPA) is an organized group of social service providers, faith leaders, educators, community leaders, parents and teens committed to creating an environment that supports parents and empowers the youth to maximize their potential without the limitations imposed by pregnancy, childbearing and parenting.

The Alliance now consists of five active committees:

- ◆ *Steering*
- ◆ *Community Awareness*
- ◆ *Effective Programs & Research*
- ◆ *Religion and Public Values*
- ◆ *Youth Leadership Team*

The Alliance meets the first Thursday of every month. Call the Healthy Start Coalition office at 863-297-3043 for details.

## Why Does Polk County Need A Teen Pregnancy Prevention Alliance?



In the past decade, Polk County has ranked among the top 15 Counties in the State for teen births for ages under 18 years old out of Florida's 67 counties. Every week, approximately 21 teens ages 15-19 give birth and about every 18 days one child ages 10-14 gives birth; every month in Polk County 94 teens give birth. Every year teen births cost Polk County tax payers more than \$5.79 million dollars.

### Additional concerns include:

- ◆ Teen parents are 50% more likely to drop out of school.
- ◆ Teen parents are 50% more likely to depend on welfare.
- ◆ 25% of teen parents will have another child before adulthood.
- ◆ Teen mothers are more likely to remain a single parent.
- ◆ Teen dads earn about \$5,000 less annually.
- ◆ Babies born to teens are more likely to die within the first month and are at higher risk for disabilities and developmental delays.



**TPPA**  
**Teen Preg-**  
**nancy**  
**Prevention**

## TPPA Initiatives

- ◆ "Teen Talk" on PGTV
- ◆ Teen Summits
- ◆ "Let's Talk Month" - October
- ◆ National "Teen Pregnancy Prevention Awareness Month" activities - May
- ◆ Faith Leaders Reception
- ◆ Poster Contest
- ◆ Youth Leadership Team
- ◆ Prevention Training
- ◆ Advertising campaigns including, commercials, billboards, movie theater ads, press releases and interviews
- ◆ Community Awareness presentations and activities

## How Can You Help?

- ◆ Attend monthly Teen Pregnancy Prevention Alliance meetings
- ◆ Learn more about Teen Pregnancy Prevention at [www.teenpregnancy.org](http://www.teenpregnancy.org)
- ◆ Provide and support educational and peer support opportunities for teens on pregnancy prevention education
- ◆ Involve teens in your community in the Youth Leadership Team