

## TEN GOOD REASONS NOT TO BE A TEENAGE PARENT

### Are You Thinking About Having a Baby?

If you are a teen and are considering becoming a parent, please listen to what teen parents have to say. Their advice: Wait until you are older. Here are the top ten reasons why.

1.

#### You'll Have More Money

- ✓ Having a child now will make it harder to finish school and get a good job. That means you'll be more likely to live in poverty.
- ✓ Of course money isn't everything. But having enough money can make life a lot easier for you and for your child.



2.

#### You'll Be Able to Save for the Things You Want

- ✓ Your child's needs – food, clothing, shelter and medical care – will always have to come first.
- ✓ The things you need and want – like decent clothes, a reliable car or money for college – may be harder to come by if you have a child too soon.



3.

#### You Can Finish School First

- ✓ Finishing high school will be much easier if you wait to have a child.
- ✓ You'll have more time for studying and you won't have to miss classes to take care of your baby.
- ✓ It will be easier to attend college or a trade school after high school too.

4.

#### Your Relationship May Not Be Ready

- ✓ Having a child can put a lot of strain on a relationship. Having a child will not fix a relationship that is in trouble.
- ✓ Are you sure you want to commit to a lifetime relationship with this person? Even if you break up, you will still have to see each other if you have a child together.

5.

#### Your Baby Will Have a Better Chance of Good Health

- ✓ Children born to teenagers have a higher risk of being born too soon or too small. They also face a higher risk of health problems later.
- ✓ Studies also show that children of adolescents are twice as likely to be the victims of abuse or neglect. Waiting to have a child until you are older may help reduce your child's risk.

6.

#### Your Family May Be Upset

- ✓ How would your parents feel if they found out you were having a baby? Would they be mad? Would they be more supportive if you waited?
- ✓ Would you need your parents to help you raise your child? Would you want them to help?

7.

#### Babies Grow Up

- ✓ Babies are cute and cuddly. But babies soon grow up.
- ✓ Are you ready for the terrible twos? What about colds and missed time from school or work?



8.

#### You'll Have More Choices About Your Future

- ✓ Do you want to be a doctor, mechanic, lawyer or hairdresser? It will be easier to make those choices if you wait to have a child.
- ✓ You will have time to travel, go to college, try-out different jobs, and decide who you want to be.



9.

#### You May Be a Better Parent Later On

- ✓ Life experiences will give you skills that can help you become a better parent. You may become better at handling stress and dealing with life's problems.
- ✓ The more experience you have before becoming a parent, the more you will have to pass on to your child.