

Getting Started

- ◆ Starting small is a smart approach. Consider first your community's needs and your library's resources. Try a one-time program before committing to a series.
- ◆ Partner with other agencies who are already working with teen parents on campuses or in community centers. If none exist, build a network of advocates.
- ◆ Prepare a list of considerations to ensure no detail is overlooked: venue, size, schedule, supplies, promotion, childcare, facilities, evaluation, and follow-up.



10 Best Practices

- ◆ Take the approach of someone there to share ideas:
 “This is what you *can* do...” vs. “This is what you *should* do...”
- ◆ Maintain a healthy level of respect for your participants.
- ◆ Avoid offering advice beyond your expertise.
- ◆ Addressing behavioral problems should not be your main responsibility.
- ◆ Invite participation but be prepared to proceed without it.
- ◆ Be fearless in showing your silly side.
- ◆ Allow your participants to lead the direction of the conversation.
- ◆ Add a personal touch to your presentation.
- ◆ Whenever possible, connect with your participants' children as well.
- ◆ Adapt this format to fit the needs of your community.