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.

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.