

Parent and Teen Dating Considerations

(with thanks to www.About.com for some of the content)

We know relationships are a privilege as well as a responsibility. Because we (parent(s) and teen) love and respect each other, we are committed to ongoing safety and cooperation. We want to experience the dating years openly and respectfully. With that in mind, we agree:

For Parent(s) and Teen

1. To communicate intentionally about our family values on dating, relationships and physical contact, including sexual relations.
2. To communicate clearly about what constitutes healthy relationships, the dangers of STD's and teen pregnancies, and to gain a thorough understanding of the age of consent and related legal questions.*
3. We will learn the art of apology – both asking for and accepting it.

For Parent(s)

1. It is my/our responsibility to clearly discuss my/our expectations (including rationale for it) before a situation arises.
2. I/we resolve to respectful communication which includes finding a suitable time to listen to my teen and raise concerns.
3. I/we commit to treating my teen with the same respect as I use with business associates or social acquaintances, even though this may at times require setting boundaries.

For the Teen:

1. I will openly talk with my parents about people I go out with in a group of friends as well as on dates. As much as possible I will have them meet my parents before we meet for social activities / dates.
2. I will not date anyone _____ years older than me or anyone _____ years younger than me. (To be agreed to together / modified if all parties agree.)*
3. I am free to go on _____ dates per week (discuss what activities are included in the category of "date" in your family).
4. I will be home by _____ on weeknights and _____ on weekends (a time mutually agreed upon by parent(s) and teen). If something arises that makes this impossible, I will call.
5. I will let my parent(s) know with whom and where I will be.
6. My responsibilities come first. (Discuss and define responsibilities together.) I will keep up with these responsibilities and am welcome to ask for adjustments that reflect our family priorities.

As with each decision and action, consequences follow. Parent(s) and teen will discuss these and come to a consensus prior to these guidelines being implemented. If questions or concerns arise in any of the above areas, any one of the parties may ask for clarification at any time.

Parent Signature

Teen Signature

For More Information on our Dating 101 for Teens Workshop (15-17),

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