



## ADVICE COLUMN

### IF YOU DON'T KNOW ... ASK!

*The Youth Leadership Task Force of DC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy invites you to send in your questions for its monthly Adults Only advice column. Please send your questions to [jfourth@teenpregnancydc.org](mailto:jfourth@teenpregnancydc.org). In the subject line, please put Advice Column.*

Teens interested in developing leadership and advocacy skills are invited to join the Youth Leadership Task Force, a group of teens 14-18, from across the city who will give DC Campaign their perspective on issues that affect life for teens.

**Q:** Do teens you know think teen pregnancy is a problem?

**A:** Most teens do think teen pregnancy is a problem because it limits what you can do. Teen pregnancy does not let teens enjoy growing up and doing the things teens enjoy like going to parties or hanging out with their friends. A lot of teens who get pregnant have to drop out of school and find a job. As members of the Youth Leadership Task Force at DC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, we have friends who are teen mothers and teen fathers too. Either way it is hard for them to keep up in school, try to earn some money and take care of a baby at the same time.

**Q:** If money were no obstacle, what do you think it would take to stop teen pregnancy in the District of Columbia?

Adults telling teens that sex is bad won't do any good at all. They need to talk to teens and most especially listen to teens, so they will trust us and come to talk when things are important to them. Teens need a place where they can vent and discuss their problems, hopes and dreams. They also need a supervised place where they can go after school, like a recreation center, that has a lot of activities that involve sports and academics. There should be a requirement that everybody in high school has to take sex education classes before they can graduate, just like English, math, and science.

