



Welcome to the...



Parent Peer Education Toolkit

Why Parent Peer Education?



In 1998 groundbreaking public opinion research was commissioned as part of an effort to understand teen pregnancy in the local DC context. This research revealed widespread consensus that teen pregnancy is a major problem in the District, on par with drugs, violence and poor schools, and one that needs to be addressed now. Teens themselves put teen pregnancy second only to violence as one of the most important problems in their lives.

Acting upon concerns about teen pregnancy, one strategy was to invest in the parents of teens. Washingtonians agree that parental responsibility is vital to any and all teen pregnancy prevention efforts. They also recognize that many parents need support in talking with their children about sexual issues. The Parent Peer Education project is that support.

free dc
from teen pregnancy

It's time to change the conversation.

DC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

Teen pregnancy is less likely when boys and girls:

- Connect to their parents or other dependable adults
- Have safe places to spend time
- Can get the health care they need
- Have a sense of belonging
- Make a clear plan for the future
- Experience success in school from an early age

Why a toolkit?



Due to the popularity of Parent Peer Education, DC Campaign is making this toolkit available for community organizations, parents and other interested individuals to help parents and other caregivers feel more comfortable and informed when talking with teens about love, sex and relationships.

This toolkit contains all the resources needed to conduct the workshop *How to Talk to Teens About Love, Sex and Relationships* and the training to facilitate the workshop.

And, what about DC Campaign?

The mission of DC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy is to cut the teen pregnancy rate in the District of Columbia in half by 2005.

Motivation is Key

While there are only two ways to prevent pregnancy, either do not have sex or use contraception carefully and consistently if sexually involved, it is important to understand the role of motivation for teens.

Young people make decisions within the context of their lives. DC Campaign constantly and consistently advocates that adults provide every teen in the city with clear reasons to delay pregnancy. These reasons are directly linked to the motivation teens need to avoid pregnancy in the first place.

Research indicates that teen pregnancy is less likely when boys *and* girls, regardless of income or race:

- ✓ **Connect to their families, schools and neighborhoods in positive and meaningful ways;**
- ✓ **Have safe places to spend time with adult supervision and interesting things to do;**
- ✓ **Get comprehensive, teen-friendly health care;**
- ✓ **Make a clear plan that does not include pregnancy during their teen years;**
- ✓ **Experience success in school from an early age; and**
- ✓ **Have a sense of belonging.**



Building on this research the work of DC Campaign is based on youth development principles, utilizing five fields of action:

- 1. Drawing Attention to Teen Pregnancy** keeps the causes and consequences of teen pregnancy constantly on the minds of adults in all sectors of the community.
- 2. Building Partnerships** brings together local programs serving adolescents as well as individuals and organizations interested in teen pregnancy prevention.
- 3. Engaging Neighborhoods** offers information, training, and projects to help parents, schools, faith institutions and other community organizations become more effective in supporting teens.
- 4. Mobilizing Teens** engages young people through the Youth Leadership Task Force and Teen Town Hall meetings.
- 5. Keeping Track of the Facts** produces thoughtful analysis of issues relating to teen pregnancy prevention and youth development that is of particular interest to the media and the general public.

The vision of DC Campaign is for Washington, DC to expand the opportunities and life choices of all young people in order to rejuvenate the social and economic health of the city.

By getting involved in Parent Peer Education, you can be an active part of that vision. DC Campaign is also fulfilling its mission and working toward this vision through:

Spreading the Word
(publication)

Have Faith in Youth

Best Practices Coalition

Youth Leadership Task Force

Coalition on Boys and Men

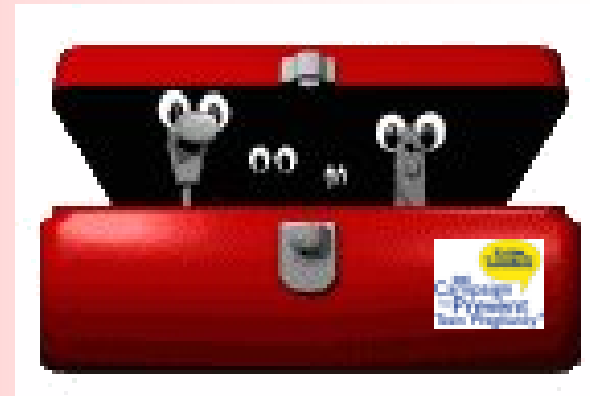
Teen Town Halls

Secondary Prevention Coalition

By making a financial contribution you can also help *Change the Conversation* about teen pregnancy prevention in DC.

Donations can be sent directly to DC Campaign (1112 11th Street NW, Suite 100, Washington, DC 20001) or given on-line at www.TeenPregnancyDC.org.

Ready...



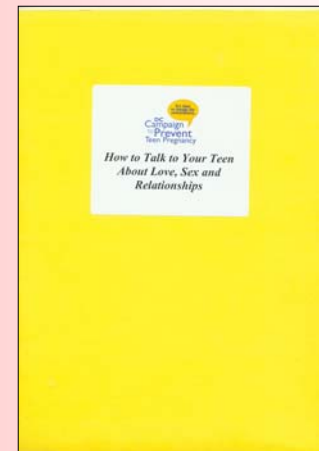
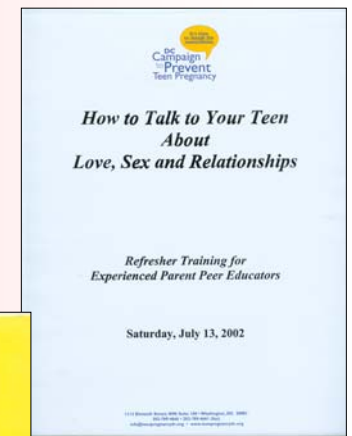
The first tool you may want to look at is the comprehensive list of toolkit contents. The three main folders have what you need to:

- Conduct the workshop (found in the *How to Talk to Teens About Love, Sex and Relationships Workshop Materials* file)
- Train workshop facilitators (found in the Parent Peer Educator Training of Facilitators), and
- Recruit facilitators and workshop participants.

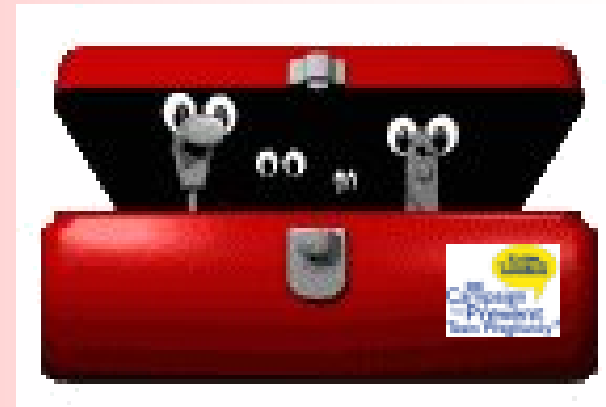
Ready, set...

All of the resources for the training or workshop are either Microsoft Word files or PDFs. If you are running this presentation it is very likely you have the ability to print all the files.

Remember to print and review all the materials at least the day before the training or workshop. Reviewing items the week before would be better.



Ready, set, go!



We hope that this introduction has helped you become more familiar with your toolkit, and that you are ready to help make teen pregnancy in DC a thing of the past!





Send comments or questions about Parent Peer Education or the toolkit to Brenda Rhodes Miller at (202) 789-4666 extension 11 or BMiller@TeenPregnancyDC.org.

For information on DC Campaign visit www.TeenPregnancyDC.org.



DC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy thanks:

- the parents and other members of the community who have helped develop toolkit materials,
- the organizations who produced wonderful material to help educate and inform parents,
- funders of the PPE project, specifically the Consumer Health Foundation and the Gilbert & Jaylee Mead Family Foundation, and
- Jennifer Bissell, the lead DC Campaign staff member who not only created all of the DC Campaign materials, but organized DC parents and facilitators for five years.