



Press Release

For immediate release

For more information:

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Help Your Child To Not Become a Teen Parent!

Moline, Illinois – May is Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month. Do you want your son or daughter to be successful in life? Do you want to provide your child with the tools and techniques necessary to avoid becoming a teen parent? If so, help your child learn how to make responsible decisions regarding early sexual activity and its ramifications. Discover how to answer your child's questions regarding sex in an open and honest manner by attending one of three parent meetings, entitled *Know What to Say* at the following locations and dates:

May 25	6:30-8:00 PM	Edgerton Women's Health Center 1510 Rusholme, Davenport, IA
June 17	6:30-8:00 PM	Bethany for Children & Families 1830 6 th Avenue, Moline, Illinois
June 24	6:30-8:00 PM	Bethany for Children & Families 1830 6 th Avenue, Moline, Illinois

Know What to Say, now in its fourth year, is a teen pregnancy prevention strategy provided by Bethany for Children & Families in collaboration with Edgerton Women's Health Center and Scott County Health Department. This program, funded by the Iowa Department of Human Services, through the Community Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Grant, provides parents with informational workshops designed to help children postpone early sexual activity in an effort to avoid teen pregnancy and its consequences. Through this program parents will be provided with:

- ◆ accurate and current information on how to effectively communicate with their children about sex and its consequences;
- ◆ tools and techniques on how to effectively listen to their children;
- ◆ an increased comfort level in talking with children about sex; and
- ◆ an increased likelihood of talking to their children

Cognizant of the fact that the teen birth rate has increased in the United States in each of the last two years, after a 15 year decrease, Mary Ann McLeod, Division Director of Community Services at Bethany for Children & Families, says that "It is essential that parents/guardians provide their children with age appropriate and medically accurate information regarding sex so that children can be empowered to make responsible decisions regarding sexual activity." Additionally, says McLeod. "In a society where youth is barraged by sexual messages from the media and the Internet, parents should be the first to provide open, honest, and ongoing conversations with their children about sex and the impact it will have on their lives."

Bethany for Children & Families is a community service organization that has provided voluntary, not-for-profit services to children and families in western Illinois and eastern Iowa since 1899.

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