



Press Release

For immediate release

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For more information:

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Be an informed parent – *Know What to Say* when your child asks you questions about sex!

Moline, Illinois – Are you nervous, hesitant, or embarrassed to answer your child's questions about sex? If so, learn new ways in which to provide your child with accurate information related to making responsible decisions regarding early sexual activity and its ramifications. Attend a parent meeting, entitled *Know What to Say*, to discover how to answer your child's questions about sex in an age-appropriate, yet open and honest manner. Workshops will be held on:

- Edgerton Women's Health Center Tuesday, May 24, 2011 6:30 PM
1510 Rusholme Street
Davenport, Iowa
- OR**
- Bethany for Children & Families Thursday, May 26, 2011 6:30 PM
1830 6th Avenue
Moline, Illinois

Know What to Say, now in its fifth 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, school staff members, and other concerned community members with informational workshops/trainings designed to help children postpone early sexual activity in an effort to avoid teen pregnancy and its consequences. Through this program participants will be provided with:

- Accurate and current information on how to effectively communicate with their children/students about sex and its consequences;
- Tools and techniques on how to effectively listen to their children/students;
- Increased comfort level in talking with children/students about sex; and
- Increased likelihood of talking to their children/students about sex.

Cognizant of the fact that the teen birth rate in both Rock Island County in Illinois and Scott County in Iowa is higher than the respective state rates, Mary Ann McLeod, Division Director of Community Services at Bethany for Children & Families, says "To prepare children for the future, it can no longer be "The Talk", but an ongoing interchange between parents and children of thoughts, ideas, feelings, and accurate information related to sex." Additionally, says McLeod, "In a society where youth are continuously barraged by sexual messages from the media, internet, and cell phones, parents must be the first to provide open, honest, and ongoing conversations with their children about sex and the impact it will have on their lives."

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