



**Bright  
Futures.**

# Bright Futures Patient Handout 15 to 17 Year Visits

## Your Daily Life

PHYSICAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Visit the dentist at least twice a year.
- Brush your teeth at least twice a day and floss once a day.
- Wear your mouth guard when playing sports.
- Protect your hearing at work, home, and concerts.
- Try to eat healthy foods.
  - 5 fruits and vegetables a day
  - 3 cups of low-fat milk, yogurt, or cheese
- Eating breakfast is very important.
- Drink plenty of water. Choose water instead of soda.
- Eat with your family often.
- Aim for 1 hour of vigorous physical activity every day.
- Try to limit watching TV, playing video games, or playing on the computer to 2 hours a day (outside of homework time).
- Be proud of yourself when you do something good.

## Healthy Behavior Choices

RISK REDUCTION

- Talk with your parents about your values and expectations for drinking, drug use, tobacco use, driving, and sex.
- Talk with your parents when you need support or help in making healthy decisions about sex.
- Find safe activities at school and in the community.
- Make healthy decisions about sex, tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs.
- Follow your family's rules.

## Violence and Injuries

VIOLENCE AND INJURY PREVENTION

- Do not drink and drive or ride in a vehicle with someone who has been using drugs or alcohol.
  - If you feel unsafe driving or riding with someone, call someone you trust to drive you.
- Support friends who choose not to use tobacco, alcohol, drugs, steroids, or diet pills.
- Insist that seat belts be used by everyone.
- Always be a safe and cautious driver.
  - Limit the number of friends in the car, nighttime driving, and distractions.
- Never allow physical harm of yourself or others at home or school.
- Learn how to deal with conflict without using violence.
- Understand that healthy dating relationships are built on respect and that saying "no" is OK.
- Fighting and carrying weapons can be dangerous.

## Your Feelings

EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

- Talk with your parents about your hopes and concerns.
- Figure out healthy ways to deal with stress.
- Look for ways you can help out at home.
- Develop ways to solve problems and make good decisions.
- It's important for you to have accurate information about sexuality, your physical development, and your sexual feelings. Please ask me if you have any questions.

## School and Friends

SOCIAL AND ACADEMIC COMPETENCE

- Set high goals for yourself in school, your future, and other activities.
- Read often.
- Ask for help when you need it.
- Find new activities you enjoy.
- Consider volunteering and helping others in the community with an issue that interests or concerns you.
- Be a part of positive after-school activities and sports.
- Form healthy friendships and find fun, safe things to do with friends.
- Spend time with your family and help at home.
- Take responsibility for getting your homework done and getting to school or work on time.



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DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

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**Bright Futures.**

# Bright Futures Parent Handout 15 to 17 Year Visits

Here are some suggestions from Bright Futures experts that may be of value to your family.

PHYSICAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

## Your Growing and Changing Teen

- Help your teen visit the dentist at least twice a year.
- Encourage your teen to protect her hearing at work, home, and concerts.
- Keep a variety of healthy foods at home.
- Help your teen get enough calcium.
- Encourage 1 hour of vigorous physical activity a day.
- Praise your teen when he does something well, not just when he looks good.

RISK REDUCTION

## Healthy Behavior Choices

- Talk with your teen about your values and your expectations on drinking, drug use, tobacco use, driving, and sex.
- Be there for your teen when she needs support or help in making healthy decision about her sexual behavior.
- Support safe activities at school and in the community.
- Praise your teen for healthy decisions about sex, tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs.

VIOLENCE AND INJURY PREVENTION

## Violence and Injuries

- Do not tolerate drinking and driving.
- Insist that seat belts be used by everyone.
- Set expectations for safe driving.
  - Limit the number of friends in the car, nighttime driving, and distractions.
- Never allow physical harm of yourself, your teen, or others at home or school.
- Remove guns from your home. If you must keep a gun in your home, make sure it is unloaded and locked with ammunition locked in a separate place.
- Teach your teen how to deal with conflict without using violence.
- Make sure your teen understands that healthy dating relationships are built on respect and that saying "no" is OK.

EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

## Feelings and Family

- Set aside time to be with your teen and really listen to his hopes and concerns.
- Support your teen as he figures out ways to deal with stress.
- Support your teen in solving problems and making decisions.
- If you are concerned that your teen is sad, depressed, nervous, irritable, hopeless, or angry, talk with me.

SOCIAL AND ACADEMIC COMPETENCE

## School and Friends

- Praise positive efforts and success in school and other activities.
- Encourage reading.
- Help your teen find new activities she enjoys.
- Encourage your teen to help others in the community.
- Help your teen find and be a part of positive after-school activities and sports.
- Encourage healthy friendships and fun, safe things to do with friends.
- Know your teen's friends and their parents, where your teen is, and what he is doing at all times.
- Check in with your teen's teacher about her grades on tests.
  - Attend back-to-school events if possible.
  - Attend parent-teacher conferences if possible.



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