

# Bright Futures Parent Handout

## 18 to 21 Year Visits

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



### PHYSICAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

#### Your Daily Life

- Visit the dentist at least twice a year.
- Protect your hearing at work, home, and concerts.
- Eat a variety of healthy foods.
- Eat breakfast every morning.
- Drink plenty of water.
- Make sure to get enough calcium.
  - Have 3 or more servings of low-fat (1%) or fat-free milk and other low-fat dairy products each day.
- Aim for 1 hour of vigorous physical activity.
- Be proud of yourself when you do something well.

### RISK REDUCTION

#### Healthy Behavior Choices

- Support friends who choose not to use drugs, alcohol, tobacco, steroids, or diet pills.
- If you use drugs or alcohol, you can talk to us about it. We can help you with quitting or cutting down on your use.
- Make healthy decisions about your sexual behavior.
- If you are sexually active, always practice safe sex. Always use a condom to prevent STIs.
- All sexual activity should be something you want. No one should ever force or try to convince you.
- Find safe activities at school and in the community.

### VIOLENCE AND INJURY PREVENTION

#### Feeling Happy

- 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.
- Always wear a seat belt in the car.
- Know the rules for safe driving.
- Never allow physical harm of yourself or others at home or school.
- Always deal with conflict using nonviolence.
- Remember that healthy dating relationships are built on respect and that saying "no" is OK.
- Fighting and carrying weapons can be dangerous.

### EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

#### Your Feelings

- Figure out healthy ways to deal with stress.
- Try your best to solve problems and make decisions on your own.
- Most people have daily ups and downs. But if you are feeling sad, depressed, nervous, irritable, hopeless, or angry, talk with me or another health professional.
- We understand sexuality is an important part of your development. If you have any questions or concerns, we are here for you.

### SOCIAL AND ACADEMIC COMPETENCE

#### School and Friends

- Take responsibility for being organized enough to succeed in work or school.
- Find new activities you enjoy.
- Consider volunteering and helping others in the community on an issue that interests or concerns you.
- Form healthy friendships and find fun, safe things to do with friends.
- As you get older, making and keeping friends is important. You may find that you drift away from some of your old friends—that's normal.
- Evaluate your friendships and keep those that are healthy.
- It is still important to stay connected with your family.

