

Do you know your kids' friends? Are you sure?

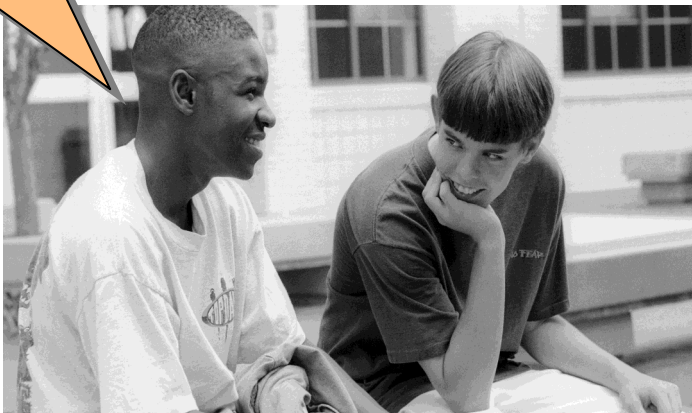
Circle of Friends

Learning how to make and keep friends is taught from a young age and is an important life skill. During the teen years the desire to “fit in” and spend time with friends becomes increasingly important. Getting to know your child’s friends is critical because it can tell you a lot about your own child. The desire for independence in the teen years often results with peer influences shaping your child’s new views and attitudes. By getting to know your child’s friends you will have a better understanding of what some of those influences might be.



Food for thought...

- Create a home environment so that kids’ enjoy coming to your home
- Teenagers love to eat, so stock up on plenty of “fun food”
- Consider having a “kid friendly” area in your home
- Plan fun activities that your kids and their friends can do with you



It’s all about connection

- Learn the names of your child’s friends
- Make your home a welcoming place for your child’s friends
- Attend school and community events whenever possible
- Make it a point to say “hello” to other kids at school and community events
- Spend a few moments asking your child’s friends questions like “what sports do you like?” or “what is your favorite summer activity?”

HELPFUL WEBSITES FOR PARENTS

MVParents.com
parenting.org
abovetheinfluence.com
theantidrug.com
parentingisprevention.org
family.samhsa.gov
HomeWord.com

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