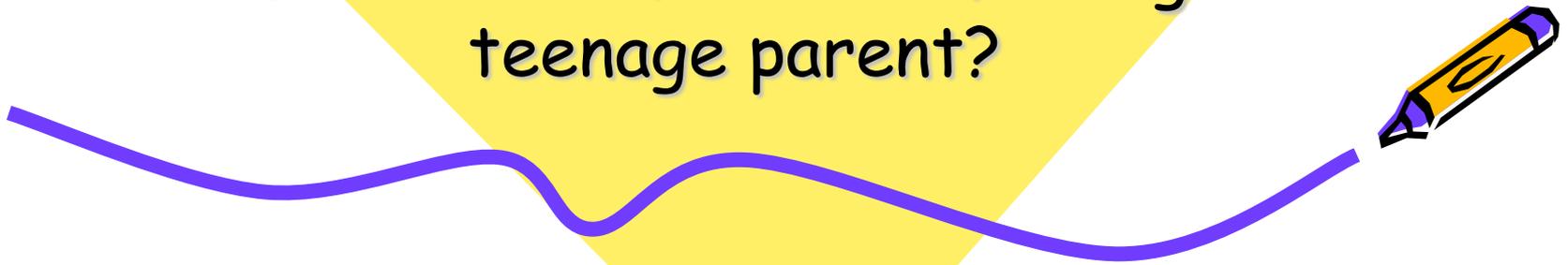
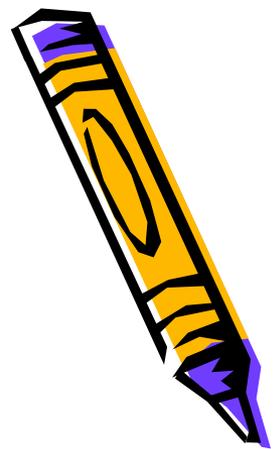


Teenage Pregnancy

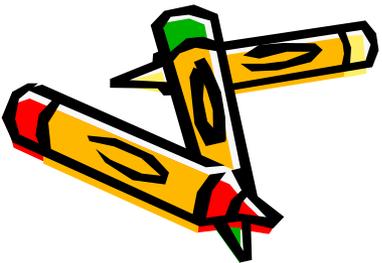
What are some risks of being a teenage parent?



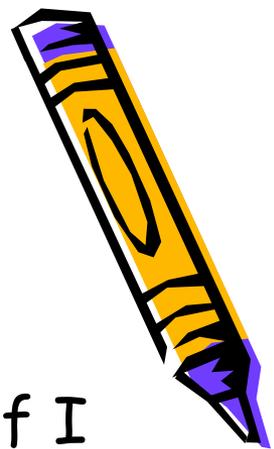
Faulty Thinking...



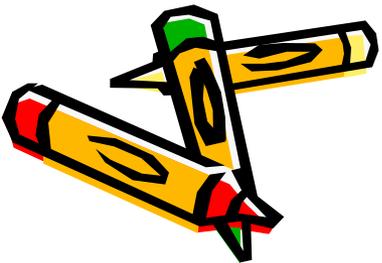
- Why teens may become pregnant
 - I can have a baby now, my mom had a baby when she was a teen and she managed...
 - Less than 70% of teenagers who have a baby in high school finish!
- Generational Cycle of Teen Pregnancy - the cycle that occurs when a teen whose mother was a teen parent becomes a teen parent.



Faulty Thinking...

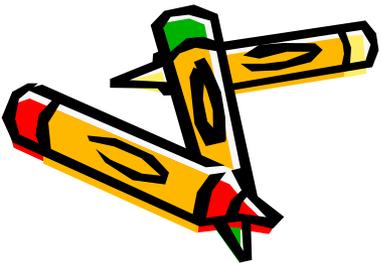
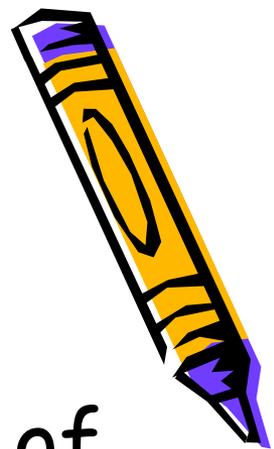


- I won't get pregnant if it is our first time...or if I am on my period...
 - The truth is that you can get pregnant your first time, or almost any time during the month.
- I can drink alcohol and stay in control of my decisions about sex.
 - Alcohol is a depressant that numbs the part of the brain that controls reasoning.
 - Many teens who are sexually active were drinking alcohol the first time they had sex.



Faulty Thinking...

- If I have a baby I'll be the center of attention...
 - Maybe for awhile, but then something new will come along. The baby will need more attention than you will receive.
 - Think of shows like "Teen Mom". What is the life of a teenage mom like?

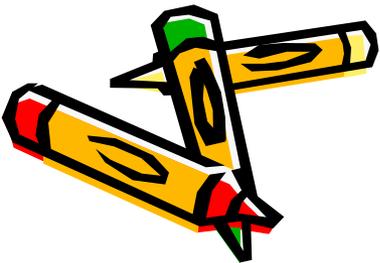


Risks Associated with Teen Pregnancy

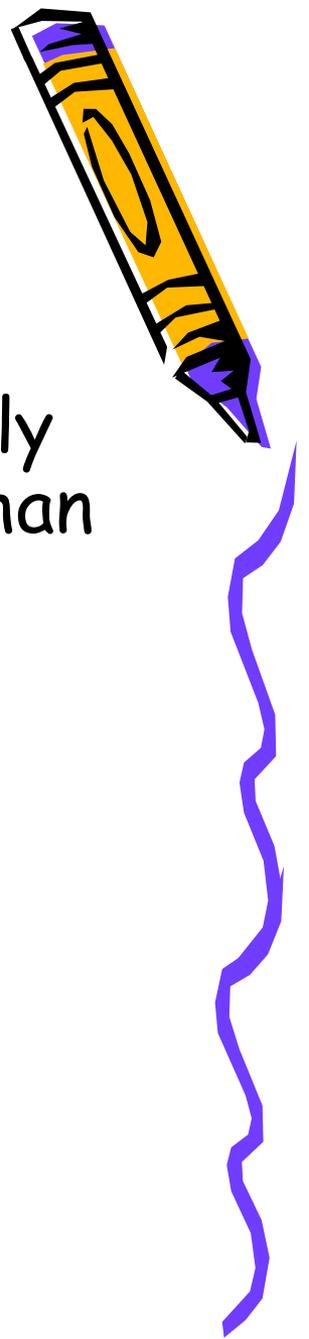
- **Low birth weight**
 - A teen female's body still is developing and maturing.
 - Many teen females do not have healthful habits.
 - Since a developing baby relies on the mother-to-be for its nutrition, whatever the mother-to-be eats, smokes, or drinks gets into the baby's bloodstream.
 - A baby may be inadequately nourished for six to eight weeks or more before the mother-to-be knows she is pregnant.
 - As a result, teen mothers are at risk for having a baby with a low birth weight
- **Low birth weight - is a weight at birth that is less than 5.5 pounds**

Did You Know?

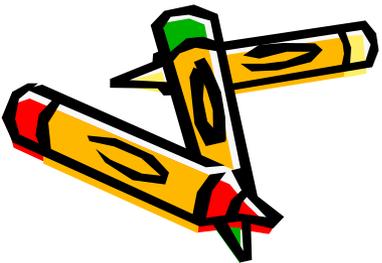
Babies' Health The incidence of low birth weight among babies born to teens is more than double the rate for adult mothers. The death rate (within 28 days of birth) is almost 50 percent higher among babies born to teens.



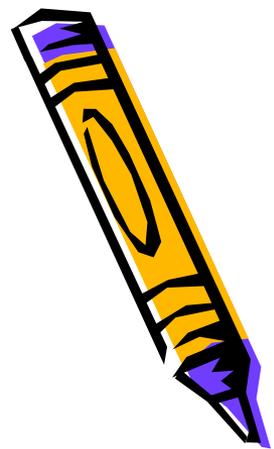
Risks Associated with Teen Pregnancy



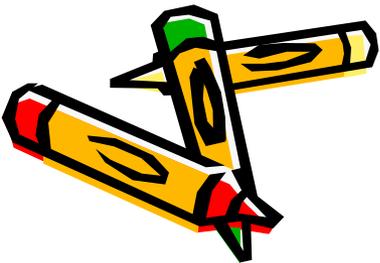
- Low birth weight babies - are more likely to have physical and mental problems than do babies of normal birth weights.
 - This could mean learning disabilities
 - Hearing difficulties
 - Developmental issues
 - Walking later
 - Talking later
 - Or other physical or mental issues



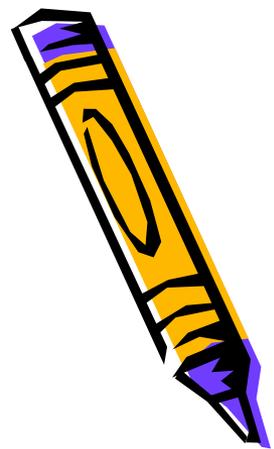
Risks Associated with Teen Pregnancy



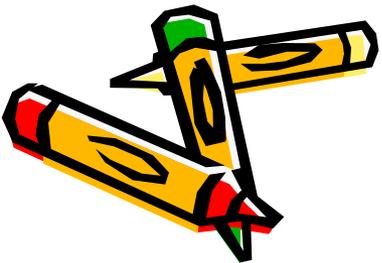
- Inadequate parenting skills
 - Teens are not prepared to be responsible for a child 24 hours a day
 - They are often more interested in hanging out with friends and partying among other things.
 - A mother who drinks or smokes during pregnancy runs the risk of having a baby with FAS (Fetal Alcohol Syndrome) or other health issues such as asthma or other lung issues.



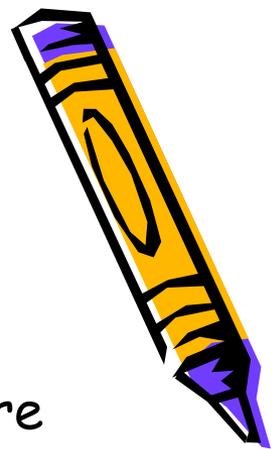
Risks Associated with Teen Pregnancy



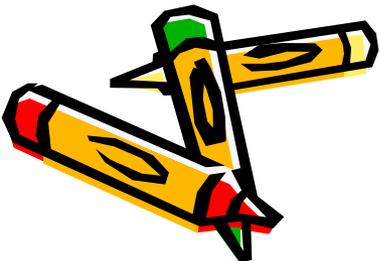
- Damaged Hereditary Material
 - The health habits of a teen father-to-be also affect a developing baby
 - The habits of the father-to-be affect the quality of the hereditary material contained in his sperm
 - Some substances that can damage a male's sperm are related to poor lifestyle choices, such as smoking, drinking alcohol, and taking other drugs.



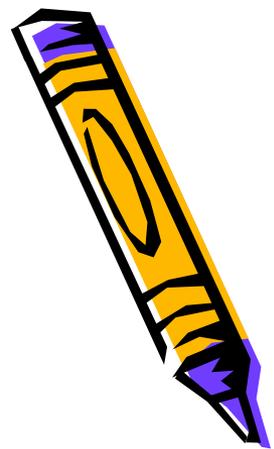
Risks to Teen Moms



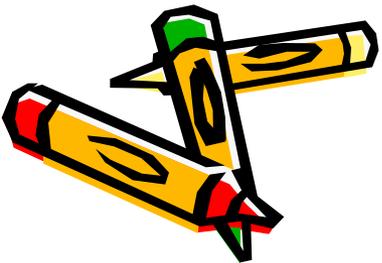
- Teen Moms - The demands on a female who is a teen are even greater because her body is still growing
 - Anemia - a condition in which the oxygen- carrying pigment in the blood is below normal
 - If the pregnant teen is anemic, the developing baby will be seriously affected because the baby depends on the mother's blood for oxygen and nutrients
 - Toxemia of Pregnancy - a disorder of pregnancy characterized by high blood pressure, tissue swelling, and protein in the urine
 - If severe, toxemia of pregnancy can progress to seizures and coma
 - Teenage pregnancy and parenthood disrupt education and career plans
 - Dating opportunities are limited for a teen raising a child



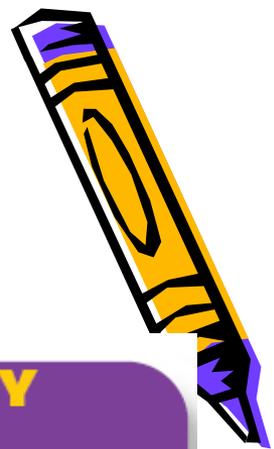
Risks to Teen Dads



- Teen Dads - Teen fathers have the responsibility of providing for the care of their babies
 - Some states have passed laws that require teen fathers to pay child support until their child is 18
 - They are less likely to graduate from high school or college than their peers who did not become fathers when they were teens
 - Teenage pregnancy and parenthood disrupt education and career plans
 - Teen fathers usually do not marry the mother of their children. As a result, teen fathers often spend little time with their children
 - Dating opportunities are limited for a teen raising a child=



Pregnancy Myths



Just the **FACTS:** **PREGNANCY MYTHS**

“Isn't it her responsibility if she gets pregnant?”

the FACTS If you father a child, that child is yours to support until he or she is at least 18, no matter how old you are. Government agencies help mothers establish the paternity (father's identity) of their children. A mother also is required to pay support if the father is raising the child. Sometimes child support is gathered by deducting it directly from the parent's paycheck. So, if she gets pregnant, it's your responsibility, too.

“Won't he marry me if I get pregnant with his child?”

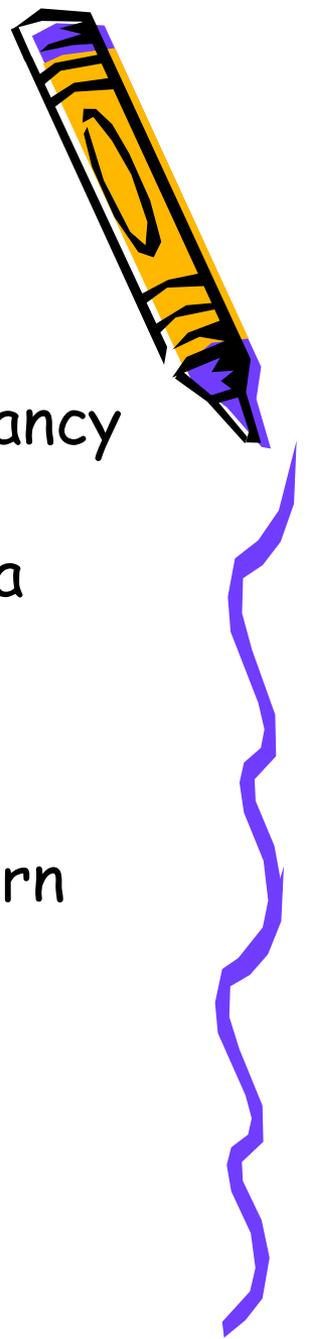
the FACTS In 2000, more than 33 percent of all births were to unmarried mothers. When these babies were born, only one-third of the mothers were living with the baby's father and no other adult. About 51 percent of these new mothers were not living with the baby's father at all. One-third of this group of mothers lived alone with their babies.

“She can't get pregnant if she's having her period, right?”

the FACTS Any time sperm enter a woman's vagina, or are deposited near it, there is a possibility she could become pregnant. This is because sperm can live inside her body for several days. Since a woman has no way of knowing exactly when she has ovulated, or will ovulate again, the possibility of pregnancy exists. The only way to make sure you won't get pregnant, or get someone pregnant, is to avoid having sexual relations.



Teenage Pregnancy Review



1. Why is the generational cycle of teen pregnancy linked to low income and poverty?
2. In what ways is a male teen responsible for a baby he helps conceive?
3. What are three examples of faulty thinking that can lead to teen pregnancy?
4. What are the risks associated with being born to teen parents?
5. What are the risks for a teen father?

