

Parents & Kids, Talking About Sex ©

Encouraging Parents to Get Involved

1. **Plant Seeds** – Include some of the parent handouts whenever you do a mailing.
2. **Invite parents to plan the program.** Parents can help schedule the program, develop the advertising and choose the handouts. They are your best communication network.
3. **Schedule the BEST time to have the program.** You will have a better turnout if you can piggy-back the program onto an already scheduled meeting or pick a time the parents are already bringing their child to school or a religious education program.
4. **Get children involved.** Tell them a nurse is coming help parents answer the students' questions about ...how their bodies will change, etc. Use the tips for "Collecting Students' Questions."
5. **Rewards students whose parents attend** – a pass for a "tag day" without their uniform or free ice-cream or donuts. The class with the best parent attendance can win an afternoon without class to play games, a pizza party or a raffle for prizes.
6. **Get teachers involved.** Getting parents to attend can be the homework assignment. To free up the parents, don't schedule homework the night of the program or a test the next day.
7. **Motivate parents to attend.** The best motivator is to give parents a list of the questions and concerns from their child's class. The reality of what their child is exposed to each day can be a great catalyst.
8. **Provide babysitting.** Give volunteer baby sitters Confirmation service-hours for watching the younger children.
9. **Parent Service Hours?** If your school has required Parent Service Hours, credit the program time towards the parents' required hours.
10. **Phone Power** – Call and ask parents to attend. Give room mothers a script and ask them to call the week before the program.
11. **For those who cannot attend** – make an audio-tape of the program and have copies of the tape and the handouts available in the church/school office.
12. **Continue the Conversation** – Evaluate the program and determine what additional information parents want.