

Parent-Child Connectedness

We know from research that a variety of factors play a role in a teen's ability to make responsible, healthy decisions about sex. Parent-child connectedness has emerged from several studies as a potential "super protective" factor in the prevention of teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and HIV. In fact, parent-child connectedness is documented as a protective factor for over 30 different adolescent health outcomes.

Communication versus Connectedness

It is important that we make the distinction between parent-child communication and parent-child connectedness. They are not the same thing! While communication is important, it is only one aspect of parent-child connectedness.

What is Parent-Child Connectedness?

Recent research has defined parent-child connectedness as a condition characterized by the positive **quality** of the emotional bond between parent and child and by the degree to which this bond is both **mutual** and **sustained** over time.

- **Quality:** the act of parenting or care giving, not simply the presence of or time spent with parents.
- **Mutual:** bond experienced by both the parent and the child.
- **Sustained:** connectedness that develops over time, and does not exist as a "one shot deal."

To download a copy of the Campaign's newest publication, "*Making the Connection: Strategies for Involving Parents in Teen Pregnancy Prevention*" click [here](#).

For more information on parent-child connectedness, visit the following websites:

- 1) Advocates for Youth - <http://www.advocatesforyouth.org>
- 2) ETR Associates – <http://www.etr.org/recapp>
- 3) National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy – <http://www.teenpregnancy.org>