

Tips for Planning a Teen Party

- Discuss the guest list and any concerns your child may have.
- Establish firm ground rules and expectations before the party and ask your child to communicate them with his/her guests before the event.
- Limit the number of invitees (by invitation only) and the number who actually attend. Do not allow uninvited guests to attend.
- Know the ages of partygoers and how they know your child.
- Make it clear to guests that alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs are not allowed and be sure to provide plenty of snacks and non-alcoholic beverages.
- Have sufficient chaperones to monitor the area and partygoers.
- Define an area for the party; do not allow partygoers in other areas (e.g., bedrooms, garage).
- Monitor the party area frequently, as well as areas that are off-limits to guests.
- Restrict entry and exit areas to deter guests from bringing in contraband.
- When a guest leaves, do not allow him or her to return. This will discourage guests from leaving to drink or take other drugs and later return under the influence.
- Establish a signal that your child may use if he or she needs help.
- Set a beginning and ending time for the party.
- Determine whether the guests will include both underage people and adults. If both adults and underage youth will be present, decide whether the party areas should be separate.
- Place valuables such as weapons, alcohol, and breakable objects in a secure area.
- Establish an area for coats and bags that can be closely monitored.
- Be prepared to call a guest's parents if the child appears to be under the influence or brings alcohol or other drugs to the party.