



# Template Letter to Parents

Dear Parents:

On \_\_\_[insert date]\_\_\_\_\_ there will be a presentation of the March of Dimes Teen-2- Teen health education series and we hope that your daughter/son will be able to attend since the information they will learn can impact on their health now and in the future. You probably know that the March of Dimes led our national efforts to eradicate polio, a devastating, preventable disease that can lead to paralysis and even death. But this was only achieved because so many families, including their children, participated in that campaign. Now, all of our children can get the polio vaccination and be spared the horrors of that preventable disease. But there are still so many problems affecting the health of our families throughout life and we now know that the health of babies at and even before birth can predict health throughout life. We also know that promoting optimal health among our youth is not only crucial to their ability to learn and achieve in school but is also the best way to help our future babies to be healthy. Therefore, we need to encourage all of our youth to do whatever possible to reduce risks to their health. Education that helps youth make healthy choices is a big part of this process. If this is done we will move closer to achieving the current mission of the March of Dimes, which is to prevent birth defects, preterm birth, and infant mortality. Reaching youth with these messages is essential since the teens of today are the parents of tomorrow.

The Teen-2-Teen videos were developed to empower girls and boys to make responsible decisions about nutrition, activity level, risky behaviors, and relationships. Despite a decreasing rate of teen pregnancies in the US, sadly we continue to have the highest rate of teen pregnancy among all industrialized nation. As many as 3 in 10 girls in the US will become pregnant at least once in their teens and more than 80% of these pregnancies will be unintended. In fact, about half of all pregnancies no matter what age of the mother are still unintended in the US. In an effort to do something about this serious problem, sections of the Teen-2-Teen series address how risky behaviors can lead to unintended pregnancy. However, if you or your child is uncomfortable with discussion of the sensitive issues surrounding teen pregnancy, please notify \_\_\_\_\_[insert name] \_\_\_\_\_ and apprise them of these concerns. As their parent, you decide whether your son/daughter can participate in this educational program.

If you would like more information about the March of Dimes, or if you would like to view the content of the videos yourself, please visit: [www.marchofdimes.com/youth](http://www.marchofdimes.com/youth)

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_ [insert name] \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ [insert address or institution] \_\_\_\_\_