

PHILOSOPHY

Over one million girls in the United States under the age of twenty become pregnant each year. When combining the complications of adolescence with pregnancy, these teens run the greatest risk of psychological, social, and academic problems. National statistics show that only one-half of all mothers who have had children before the age of eighteen finish high school.

The philosophy of the teen parent program is that dropout prevention is best achieved by providing academic, social, and emotional supports to pregnant girls and teenage parents. Our purpose is to offer a comprehensive academic curriculum, academic alternatives, child care, and transportation to insure a secure future for the student and child.



TEEN PARENT TEACHERS

- Help students cope with being pregnant and becoming a parent.
- Encourage and support academic achievement and school attendance.
- Help coordinate social and health services for the family.
- Coordinate transportation and day care for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.
- Deliver the parenting curriculum.

ADMISSION PROCEDURES

To register for the Teen Parent Program or for more information, contact the guidance department at your school site or one of the following personnel:

Cathy Eckstein
Teen Parent Teacher
(352) 726-2430 ext. 285

Denise Willis
Drop Out Prevention
(352) 726-2430 ext. 222

TEEN PARENT PROGRAM



Citrus County
Schools

THE TEEN PARENT PROGRAM OFFERS

- *Academics
- *Child Care
- *Social Work
- *Transportation

The teen parent program is a voluntary program designed to provide a specialized parenting curriculum and coordination of additional services to meet the needs of students who are pregnant and students who are mothers or fathers.

ELIGIBILITY

Any student who is currently working towards a high school diploma and can document her pregnancy is eligible for this program.

Also, currently enrolled parenting mothers and fathers are eligible when they document the birth of their child.

In addition, babies of parents who are enrolled in the teen parent program or have completed the program may participate.



Additional services are coordinated by the teen parent teacher and include the following:

ACADEMICS

Teen parents attend and earn credit toward a regular high school diploma. Students may earn a half elective credit in one or more of the following courses:

- *Health for Expectant Parents
- *Parenting I
- *Parenting II

The curriculum includes instruction in such topics as prenatal health, labor and delivery, postnatal health, the benefits of sexual abstinence, and the consequences of repeat pregnancies. Parenting skills include instruction in the stages of child growth and development, methods for aiding in the intellectual, language, physical and social development of children, and guidance on constructive play activities.

CHILD CARE

A nursery is available at WTI, for the babies of our teenage mothers and is staffed by trained child care professionals. Each student must spend 1 period a day in the nursery. This provides an opportunity for pregnant students to learn how to take care of an infant and parenting students can sharpen their parenting .skills.

SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

The teen parent teacher provides social work services to students as needed. The teacher follows-up to assure that students are receiving services from various community agencies. These agencies/services include: Healthy Start; WIC; prenatal and postnatal healthcare; pediatrics; Medicaid; food stamps; daycare coordination; school transportation.

TRANSPORTATION

When needed, Transportation to and from school is provided for teen parents and their babies, via public school buses with approved car seats.

