

# TEEN PARENTS...

talk straight about the rights, responsibilities, and realities of being a teen parent.



legal                      financial                      emotional

## What is No Kidding?

*No Kidding* is an Austin ISD approved program designed to educate youth on the rights, responsibilities, and realities of young parenthood. The presentations are fun, interactive, and conducted by well-trained peer educators who are themselves teen parents.

*"Thank you for your time and commitment in helping middle school students. They not only enjoy your presentation, but your life stories have such a huge impact on them that they discuss your stories and the information for weeks after the presentations."*

## How do presentations work?

The *No Kidding* curriculum is designed to be delivered in 3 sessions over the course of three 45-60 minute class periods or two 1 ½ hour class periods, with a 4<sup>th</sup> optional session. They are geared towards both non-parenting and parenting groups of middle and high school age youth. Our peer educators are available during the school day, evenings, and weekends. And since presentations are interactive, they work best in groups of up to 40.

If being used in Health classes in conjunction with the p.a.p.a curriculum, it is important to note that *No Kidding* includes activities and discussion found in sessions 4, 6, 7, 10, and 12 of the p.a.p.a. curriculum and may be used to supplement teacher led content in those sessions. *No Kidding* alone does not meet the requirements of HB 2176.

\* We include both fathers and mothers in the program. Participation as a *No Kidding* peer educator is voluntary, and we recruit and hire eligible peer educators regardless of the applicants' race, gender, religion, ethnicity, national origin, or disability.

## What information is covered in the presentations?

The *No Kidding* curriculum is designed to be interactive, compelling, and full of little-known, surprising information about the legal, financial, and emotional realities of young parenthood. Here is a glimpse into what we cover in each of the 4 sessions:



YOUTHlaunch

## No Kidding: Straight Talk from Teen Parents

A program of YouthLaunch &  
the Texas Attorney General's  
Child Support Division



To schedule a presentation or for more information contact:

Jenifer De Atley  
No Kidding Program Coordinator  
512-342-0424  
jdeatley@youthlaunch.org

**Session 1: Telling Our Stories.** Young fathers and mothers 'talk straight' about their lives, telling stories about their journey and imparting information they wish they'd known before having a child.

**Session 2: Understanding Paternity.** Through personal stories, interactive activities, and role-plays, students will analyze the legal consequences of becoming an unmarried parent, the importance of both parents in a child's life, and examine their own attitudes towards commitment and marriage.

**Session 3: Money Matters.** Students investigate the expense of child rearing and single parenting, analyze the financial obligation of supporting a child, and explore the process of paying and receiving child support.

**Session 4: Understanding Relationships. (optional)** The peer educators will lead a discussion with the students about how they envision their futures, what healthy and unhealthy relationships look like, and their own attitudes about relationships.

**Please note:** *No Kidding* peer educators are trained in public speaking and paternity and child support law. However, they are not sex educators and do not address topics related to sex education.

*“One of the peer educators played football at our school last year. I believe the information he presented- about responsible fatherhood, the expenses of child rearing, and the sacrifices made by teen parents- made more of an impact because he was an admired teen.”*

## What TEKS do the presentations cover?

### OUR STATE STANDARDS FOR EDUCATIONAL CONCEPTS

#### SOCIOLOGY- 113.37

(2) Citizenship (3) Economics (4) Economics (7) Government

#### PSYCHOLOGY- 113.36

(2) Individual in society (11) Culture (15) Social studies skills (16) Social studies skills

#### GOVERNMENT- 115.35

(6) Economics (9) Government (15) Citizenship (18) Culture

#### ENGLISH I, II, III, IV- 110.42, 110.43, 110.44, 110.45

(14) Listening/speaking/critical listening (15) Listening/speaking/evaluation

#### HEALTH I- 155.22, 115.23, 115.32

(8) Influencing factors (9) Influencing factors (16) Personal/interpersonal skills

#### MATHEMATICS- 111.22, 111.23, 111.24

#### HOME ECONOMICS FOUNDATIONS- 122.12, 122.22, 122.32, 122.63

#### PERSONAL AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT- 122.12

(1) Personal development (4) Family studies (5) Family Studies (7) Child development

#### FAMILY STUDIES AND HUMAN SERVICES: INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY LIFE- 122.22

(2 & 3) Personal development (4) Interpersonal relationships (6) Interpersonal relationships (7) Effective individual and family functioning (9) Effective individual and family functioning

#### CHILD DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATION AND SERVICES: PREPARATION FOR PARENTHOOD- 122.32

(1) Preparation for parenthood (2) Preparation for parenthood (5) Effective parenting

#### CONSUMER AND FAMILY ECONOMICS 122.63

(1) Management of financial resources (4) Government, economy, and societal issues (7) Economic security

## 2008-2009 Peer Educators

**Claudia.** I am 21, and my husband and I have a 3-year-old daughter named Kendall. I am studying nutrition at Texas State. I enjoy nutrition, working out, and volunteering with my church. I am passionate about physical, emotional, and mental health and enjoy helping others to make healthy choices. No Kidding enables me to do something very positive with a situation that people perceive as negative. It really means a lot to me that I can help young people and be a positive role model.

**Mayra.** I am an 18-year-old mother to my daughter Dalayah (4) who is in kindergarten and my son Leroy Isaiah (3) who is in start pre-k. They are getting so big and are a handful to take care of now. I live in San Marcos and drive to Austin every day to participate in No Kidding and attend ACC where I am getting my associates degree as a registered nurse. Working for No Kidding is a DREAM job for any parent! I feel that I can relate to the students- the middle school kids because of how young I was when I became pregnant, and the high school students because of how old I am now. If we had No Kidding when I was in school I know it would have changed my life.

**Jay.** I'm a 17 year-old junior in high school with a 7-month old son named Rai, whose name stands for Thunder or Lightning in Japanese. I found out I was going to be a father at the age of 16. I am working hard to get good grades, hold myself up, work, and most importantly, take care of my son. To me, No Kidding is a chance to inform my peers about how it really is to be a teen parent, rather than what they see on TV as "reality." No Kidding is a way to educate by experience.

**Maria.** I am 21 years old, and a Senior Mentor with No Kidding. I found out I was pregnant when I was 16 in my junior year of high school. My son Adrian who will be 3 this summer, can put a smile on my face even when I'm feeling down. I want to build a future for my son so he can have the best and be proud of his mommy. I am attending ACC, planning to transfer to UT to pursue a degree in Social Work. I really like working for No kidding because in the future I would also like to help kids. I also work with Citizens Schools, which allows me to spread the message of delaying pregnancy to middle school students.

**Robert.** I am 18 years old and a father to my 10-month old son Jonathan. I am enrolling in ACC courses soon and working on getting out of high school. Being a parent so young has taken its toll on me but with all the struggles aside, nothing makes me happier than being a father to my little boy.

**Dominick.** I'm a 23 year-old father and student at TSU who has been poverty stricken from the word "go." My daughter, Diamonique, is truly the joy of my life and I am determined to give her a better life. Although having a child so young has pushed me back, I am determined to finish my education with the faith of a better tomorrow and the great people in my new "no kidding family." This program is truly special, it not only gives you the confidence to conquer professional fears and emotional hurdles, the program gives you the chance to provide students with a fore warning from their peers.

**Gisela.** I'm 20 and have a 3-year old son named Braulio Diego. I am attending ACC and working very hard to finish my degree in nursing. I work 2 part-time jobs - with No Kidding and as a clinical assistant with Children's Wellness Center. I really enjoy educating my peers about life as a teen parent with the program and serving as a mentor to new peer educators.

**Lauren.** I am 21 years old and have a 2 year-old daughter named Janaya. I attend Everest Institute for my certification as a Dental Assistant and plan to transfer to UT for a degree in Dental Hygiene. My goal is to open my own office and work as a dental hygienist. The No Kidding program allows me to share my story with others, which gives me great comfort knowing that something I say or teach may result in a student's prevention of an unexpected pregnancy.

**76Monica.** I am a 20-year old single parent to 1 1/2 year old Antonio. I work 2 jobs to support my son. No one ever came and talked to us in school about the realities of becoming a young parent. Having younger siblings myself, I don't want them to end up in a situation like mine. As a young parent I'm happy to be part of a program that reaches out to help youth. Plus being able to work with other young parents in similar situations is comforting, and lets me know that I'm not alone.

**Gabriel.** I am 18 years old. I found out I was going to be a father to my handsome 1-year old son Gabriel Jr. when I was 16. I'm trying to finish high school and go to ACC next year. No Kidding to me is an opportunity to let other teens learn from my experience and use it to be their best.

**Carl.** I am a 19 year-old single father. I found out I was going to be a parent when I was 17. I am currently working two jobs and planning on attending school in the fall. I have a 1 year-old daughter named Nairea that is my world. I hope that being an intern in the program will build a better foundation for myself being a father.

**April.** I am a 21-year-old mother and newlywed. My daughter is 4 and her name is Autumn. I am currently attending UT where I am pursuing a degree in Social Work. I'm so excited to be part of the No Kidding program. This program gives me the opportunity to share important information with kids who may face the same situations that I did as a teenager.

## What students are saying about No Kidding

On child support: *"This program is so helpful because you learn so many things about court and child support and actual teens talking to teens. It's a cool program."*

On paternity: *"I learned all the paperwork that was involved; I never knew there were so many rules and regulations."*

On money: *"The single most important thing I learned was that children are expensive and you should wait to have children."*

On parenting: *"I learned kids are harder to maintain than I thought. Start teaching this to middle school; kids are having kids at 12. It's crazy."*

On hermit crabs: *"I learned to wait to have a baby because some people's world goes like a hermit crab, locked up in a dark shell taking care of your kid."*

On decision-making: *"I've learned that it is a big decision to have a baby and it can and will change your life forever."*

On waiting: *"I will wait until I am in a stable relationship, finish school, and get a good job [before I have kids]."*