

To hear from other teens, www.amplifyyourvoice.org

For information just for teens visit:

<http://advocatesforyouth.org>

www.thenationalcampaign.org

<http://www.iwannaknow.org/teens/sexualhealth/puberty.html>

<http://www.girlsmarts.org/>

Preparing for a Lifetime www.health.ok.gov

Tell us what you think:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MyLifeMyPlan>



**Preparing
for a
Lifetime**
It's Everyone's Responsibility

By putting together this plan, I am taking
charge of my future.

A special thanks to the
Delaware Department
of Health and Human
Services for creating and
giving OSDH permission
to use this booklet.

Funding for this project is provided by Maternal and Child Health Services Title V Block Grant. MY LIFE. MY PLAN. booklet is issued by the Oklahoma State Department of Health, as authorized by Terry Cline, PhD., Commissioner of Health. 1,700 copies were printed by the Department of Central Printing Services at a cost of \$1,870. in July 2012. Copies have been deposited with the Publications Clearinghouse of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries.

KEEP OUT!!!

PROPERTY OF: _____

MY LIFE PLAN

MY LIFE.
MY PLAN.

My teen years are a great time in my life - I have lots of fun things going on and a world of possibilities lie ahead of me! As I'm discovering what's in store and figuring out what kind of person I want to be, I know I'll be faced with plenty of choices. This booklet can help me make healthy decisions along the way.

My goal is to enjoy this exciting time.
And take charge of my health so
I can live the life I want.



What is a Life Plan?

And why should I care now?

Now's the time to start deciding what you want for your life, and that's where the life plan comes in. It'll help you take better care of yourself and set goals. And, most important, it'll help you understand how a pregnancy will affect your goals.

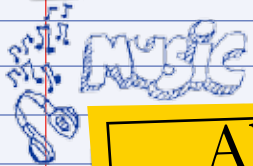
Being a parent could be years away for you. Be informed so you can take the best care possible of your health - and stay true to your dream.

This guide will help you get started. That way, when the time comes, you'll be ready.

There are steps you can take to be in the best health. Consider all of the following:

1 Decide what you want from life.

- Do you want to go to college?
- What career are you interested in?
- Do you want to be in a relationship?
- Do you want a family someday?



Abstinence

The only 100% effective way to not have a baby and to avoid STDs is to not have sex.



2

Develop healthy relationships.

- Be in touch with your feelings and know what makes you happy.
- It might seem like everybody's doing it, but they're not. It's perfectly OK not to have sex. And if your boyfriend or girlfriend pressures you or doesn't understand, you don't have to be with them.

You're entitled to say "no" now, even if you've said "yes" before.



3

Make a Life Plan.

- Do you think you want children someday? How many and when?
- Do you have a plan to prevent pregnancy?
- What's your strategy—abstinence or birth control? Discuss both with your health care provider (doctor, nurse, counselor) and your parents
- Stick to your decision. Don't let anyone pressure you into doing something you're not comfortable with.

4

Live a healthy life.

- Eat fruits and vegetables.
- Move more and stay active.
- Stay away from alcohol, smoking, dipping and illegal drugs.
- See a health care provider for regular checkups.
- Take a multi-vitamin daily.

5

Take charge of your health.

- Make sure all of your shots are up-to-date.
- Get a dental check-up every 6 months.
- Take care of health problems—don't ignore them.
- Wait until you're ready to have sex. Ask yourself, "Am I responsible and ready for a sexual relationship?"
- If you're sexually active, get tested for STDs and always insist on using protection. Be sure your partner is tested too.

6

Learn your family's health history.

- Find out what health problems, if any exist in your family, and who has these problems. For example, you should be aware of diabetes, asthma, heart disease, depression and babies born too soon or with birth defects.
- Discuss these health issues with your health care provider—they could affect you and the children you might have someday.



I will:

- ☐ Work hard in school and stay on track to receive my diploma.
- ☐ Start thinking about what kind of work or career makes me feel good about myself.
- ☐ Decide whether or not I want to go to college, and I will talk to my school counselor for guidance and information on the application process.
- ☐ Get help if I feel depressed, anxious or sad for long periods of time.
(The Oklahoma Help line is a free service that can help you. Call 1-800-522-9054, or ask your health care provider.)
- ☐ Get help if I feel hopeless or think about hurting myself.
- ☐ Get help if someone is physically or mentally abusing me.
The Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence offers a 24-hour domestic violence hot line. Call toll free, 1-800-522-7233 (SAFE).

- ☐ Talk to my doctor, nurse, parent or visit my local county health department about birth control if I'm thinking about having sex.
To locate a clinic near you go to http://www.ok.gov/trition/modules/health/map/county_map.php.
- ☐ Take the time to really think about how a teen pregnancy could affect my life and my goals.
- ☐ Talk to my partner about practicing safe sex and getting tested for STDs.
- ☐ Start to eat better.
(Myplate.gov offers great ideas for healthy eating.)
- ☐ Exercise more.
(Go to www.fitkidsok.org for ideas.)
- ☐ Stay away from alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs.
- ☐ Make and keep regular appointments with my health care provider and dentist.
- ☐ Ask my parents and family members about what types of health problems run in my family.
- ☐ Make a promise to myself to stay healthy because it will make me feel good about myself. It will also help me have the best chance of having a healthy baby when the time is right.

3 Key goals I want to focus on + notes

Based on the steps and checklist, I've thought about what's right for me and agree to make at least 3 life changes a priority right now. I will write them down here, because that's the first step to making them happen. I'll also be sure to take notes on any good info and advice I receive along the way.



The Reality of Teen Pregnancy

Being a teen parent will force you to grow up fast. You have plenty of time to be a grown-up—why rush it?

- Think about it—being a teen parent is like baby-sitting all day, every day, and not getting paid.
- Parenthood is the main reason why most teen girls drop out of school.
- A baby won't solve relationship problems or make your partner stay with you. Most teen fathers don't marry the mother of their child.
- Graduation, college, parties, spring break, sleeping in...all the fun things you're looking forward to will have to be put on hold, maybe even forever.
- Teens who become parents are more likely to end up poor or on welfare.
- Babies are expensive. Costs can add up to \$10,000 in the first year alone. Without a degree or a job, how would you pay for that?
- A baby will delay the goals of MY LIFE. MY PLAN.





MONTH &
YEAR

APRIL							MAY						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30												

Sunday 1	Monday 2 Math Test	Tuesday 3	Wednesday 4
8 Family Night Help Cook	9	10	11 English Paper Due
15	16	17 Dr. Appointment 2:00 pm	18
22	23 Soccer Try Outs	24	25
29	30		

MONTH &
YEAR

JUNE							JULY						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31													

Thursday 5	Friday 6 Football Game!	Saturday 7	Important Matters
12	13	14 School Dance 7:00 pm	
19	20 Social Studies Quiz	21	
26 Ashley's Birthday	27	28 Ashley's Birthday Party	

NOTES

NOTES