



# How to Talk to Teens About Really Important Things: Specific Questions and Answers and Useful Things to Say

By Charles E. Schaefer, Theresa Foy DiGeronimo

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How to Talk to Teens About Really Important Things is the essential guide for those who has found themselves ill prepared-and ill at ease-when discussing some of life's most important issues with teens. In this much needed book, award-winning authors Charles Schaefer and Theresa Foy DiGeronimo offer parents a commonsense approach for knowing just what to say to teens and how and when to say it. For easy reference, How to Talk to Teens About Really Important Things is organized alphabetically by topic and offers clear, authoritative guidelines on discussing a variety of vital issues such as depression, suicide, dieting, gangs, drugs, and date rape.

"The authors have a unique knack for combining good psychology with good sense. Their advice is the most current I have seen-they clearly know what's on the mind of today's teenagers."--Lawrence E. Shapiro, author of How to Raise a Child with a High IQ

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### Editorial Review

#### Amazon.com Review

Many parents dread the teen years, a time that can be filled with turmoil and experimentation. The best way for parents to get through these years? Communicate with your child. *How to Talk to Teens About Really Important Things* is an A-to-Z of dos and don'ts for talking with your teenager about issues as complicated as drinking, violence, ethics and moral values, depression, prejudice, homosexuality, pregnancy, and pornography--in short, the "hard" stuff. Lightly walking the line of supportive education and strong parenting (while carefully avoiding the pitfalls of judgmentalism and blanket acceptance), the authors, Charles E. Schaefer, a psychologist, and Theresa Foy DiGeronimo, an English professor, give sample answers and discussion points for parents. In general, the advice for parents stresses empathy, education, and providing safe limits for teens, but the authors are not afraid to be firm. In the "Tattoos and Body Piercing" section, for instance, they provide information for parents unfamiliar with the procedure, then suggest what to say when putting your foot down ("I want you to know that you do not have my permission to get a tattoo or to get any part of your body pierced.... You are not allowed.") Throughout the book, the authors suggest ways to use media examples to educate children, and they provide a variety of helpful resources, including books, movies, and Web sites. --*Ericka Lutz*

#### From Publishers Weekly

A look at this book's table of contents is alarming. It must be bleak to come of age these days, when concerns can be tidily alphabetized from Alcohol and Driving to Violence. But veteran parent-guide authors Schaefer, a psychologist, and DiGeronimo know how to push the right buttons. They steadily work their way through every issue that has hit the headlines in the last five years; whether the topic is young women who give birth during the prom and abandon their babies in the bathroom, cults or gangs, it's covered here. Almost lost behind these sensational topics are which, while worrisome, actually affect a small number of teens. It is useful information about more common concerns. Alcohol and driving, divorce, prejudice, safety on the Internet and more are discussed in short chapters. And because the authors believe informed parents are more effective, they conclude each chapter with a list of references for further research. Useful strategies, such as the fine art of making your point indirectly and getting your kids to talk, are included, along with well-written dialogues that actually sound plausible. While there's nothing earth-shattering here, mostly commonsense information readily available elsewhere, readers will be grateful for the convenience of having varied information gathered into a single volume.

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#### From Library Journal

Schaefer and DiGeronimo, professors of psychology and English, respectively, have coauthored eight popular books on parenting. In this sequel to their excellent *How To Talk to Your Kids About Really Important Things* (Jossey-Bass, 1994), they assert that parents need to learn how to bridge the potentially harmful parent-teen communication gap. "Askable" parents do not dodge embarrassing questions or punish, tease, or judge kids for asking about emotionally charged issues like homosexuality, death, and pornography. The "ground rules" include being informed, trustworthy, brief, clear, and respectful. Each chapter, while remaining sensitive to differing lifestyles and belief systems, offers clear guidelines and sample dialogs for talking about teenagers' unique needs. Issues, presented in alphabetical order, cover a wide range of topics, including divorce, date rape, HIV/AIDS, tattoos and body piercing, cults, and gangs. Further resources and relevant reading are provided. Recommended for all libraries. A. Chogollah Maroufi, California State Univ., Los Angeles

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### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Clarence Riley:**

Book is to be different per grade. Book for children until adult are different content. As it is known to us that book is very important normally. The book How to Talk to Teens About Really Important Things: Specific Questions and Answers and Useful Things to Say has been making you to know about other expertise and of course you can take more information. It doesn't matter what advantages for you. The e-book How to Talk to Teens About Really Important Things: Specific Questions and Answers and Useful Things to Say is not only giving you more new information but also to become your friend when you feel bored. You can spend your own personal spend time to read your book. Try to make relationship using the book How to Talk to Teens About Really Important Things: Specific Questions and Answers and Useful Things to Say. You never really feel lose out for everything should you read some books.

#### **Adam Whittington:**

People live in this new day time of lifestyle always make an effort to and must have the time or they will get wide range of stress from both day to day life and work. So , once we ask do people have time, we will say absolutely yes. People is human not really a robot. Then we inquire again, what kind of activity do you possess when the spare time coming to anyone of course your answer will certainly unlimited right. Then do you try this one, reading ebooks. It can be your alternative in spending your spare time, typically the book you have read is actually How to Talk to Teens About Really Important Things: Specific Questions and Answers and Useful Things to Say.

#### **Jason Silva:**

How to Talk to Teens About Really Important Things: Specific Questions and Answers and Useful Things to Say can be one of your beginner books that are good idea. All of us recommend that straight away because this publication has good vocabulary that can increase your knowledge in words, easy to understand, bit entertaining however delivering the information. The article writer giving his/her effort to place every word into delight arrangement in writing How to Talk to Teens About Really Important Things: Specific Questions and Answers and Useful Things to Say but doesn't forget the main level, giving the reader the hottest and based confirm resource information that maybe you can be among it. This great information can drawn you into new stage of crucial considering.

#### **Cheri Whaley:**

Your reading 6th sense will not betray you actually, why because this How to Talk to Teens About Really Important Things: Specific Questions and Answers and Useful Things to Say publication written by well-known writer who knows well how to make book that may be understand by anyone who read the book. Written with good manner for you, leaking every ideas and writing skill only for eliminate your current

hunger then you still hesitation How to Talk to Teens About Really Important Things: Specific Questions and Answers and Useful Things to Say as good book but not only by the cover but also with the content. This is one book that can break don't assess book by its deal with, so do you still needing another sixth sense to pick this kind of!? Oh come on your reading through sixth sense already said so why you have to listening to a different sixth sense.

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