



*Because I Love You™*

Parent and Youth Support Groups

## ADVICE TO PARENTS WITH HIGH-RISK KIDS

(actual quotes from students)

1. Make the rules clearer
2. Parents should present a united front
3. Don't give us everything we want
4. Don't do everything for us
5. Don't give up on discipline
6. Don't allow us to control the boundary lines because we'll keep changing them
7. Make reasonable consequences, ones that YOU can keep, then hold to them no matter what
8. If you are divorced or not getting along with each other, don't use us as a tennis ball
9. Don't discuss the rules with us or ask if we agree with them or like them, we don't, but we need them
10. Don't lecture for hours-we're not listening anyways
11. Don't let us wear you down
12. Practice what you teach - If you get drunk or high, we'll use it as an excuse to get high also
13. Don't make empty threats
14. Don't compromise
15. Don't blame our friends, our school, or our society for our trouble
16. Don't give up on us
17. Don't say we're going through a stage.
18. Start discipline early on

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19. Don't fight our battles, smother or overprotect us (Example: If we get into trouble with a teacher don't go to school and argue with the teacher)
20. Don't look the other way
21. Don't be intimidated by us, don't back off.
22. Don't walk on eggshells with us
23. Don't be afraid to confront us in public if we are being outrageous
24. You don't have to prove that we did something wrong. It's not a court of law. If you suspect us of something, you are allowed to accuse or challenge us, even though you may be wrong
25. Check the window sills for butts
26. Don't give us random money- It's too easy to use for drugs
27. Check the directions of the fans in our rooms- Be suspicious if it faces out towards the window
28. If you are looking for drugs, be sure to check the light fixtures, under mattresses (Especially Your Mattresses), socks, deodorant containers, pockets of hanging cloths, etc. - We pride ourselves in clever hiding spaces
29. Don't let us have locks on our bedroom doors
30. Don't be afraid to invade our privacy. If we are in trouble you should read our letters, check our closets, check out our friends
31. Be suspicious if we sleep a lot, have red eyes or runny noses
32. Be suspicious when we: wear cologne, use mouthwash, chew gum, wear hats or dark glasses
33. Don't fall for the lie "But all the other kids' parents let them.
34. "Stick to your rules, don't give in an inch-- Believe it or not, we want you to catch us, stop us, and outsmart us...

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