In our community, who can a young person talk to or where can he or she go to get information, contraceptives, and health care?

Gather student ideas. Be sure to include the following:
- Parents or other trusted adults
- School counselor or nurse
- Clergy
- Family physician or health clinic
- Local health department
- Family planning agency
- Websites
- Local pharmacy or stores
- Hotlines

Inform students that pharmacies and local stores may be sources for contraceptives and information about medications, but not medical advice.

Discuss criteria for selecting sources of information and advice.

If you are looking for information, conversations with trusted adults or professionals can help. What are the criteria for selecting a person who is a reliable source of information?

Answers:
- Knowledgeable—has credentials
- Willing to find information with you
- Willing to say he or she doesn’t know the information, rather than make something up
- Willing to share the source of the information

Remember the list of hotlines and websites you have. These are also reliable sources.

When you need advice, there are plenty of people who are willing to give it. How can you select a person who will give good advice?

Answers:
- Someone who cares about your well-being
- Someone who has similar beliefs and values
- Someone who is knowledgeable

Discuss the roles peers play in sharing information.

Most of you probably ask your friends for advice also. It’s important that you know the facts if you are going to discuss methods of pregnancy prevention with your friends. Today you are going to have a chance to practice sharing accurate information with your peers.
**Application:** Discuss the pros and cons of six methods of pregnancy prevention that are used by and effective for young people.

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| Re-form the six small groups from Lesson 16. Prepare to describe the pros and cons of six methods of avoiding pregnancy. | Rotate the roles: leaders, recorders, and spokespersons. Abstinence is the only guaranteed way to avoid pregnancy and STIs. It is the safest choice. It doesn’t work, however, if an individual has decided to have sexual intercourse. Some methods for preventing pregnancy are not very effective, and some methods are not typically used by teens. Each small group will be assigned a method that is effective for young people. Your group’s task is to prepare to debate the merits of the method assigned to your group. Use your notes on the benefits and challenges of contraceptive methods from our previous lesson. Each group will try to convince the class that their method is a reasonable choice for some people. Focus on two things:  
  • Identify pros of using the method.  
  • Identify cons of using the method. You will have ten minutes to prepare. Then, each spokesperson will have two minutes to share the pros and cons, and to convince the class about the merits of your assigned method. Assign each small group one of the following methods of avoiding pregnancy:  
  • Abstinence  
  • Birth control patch (“the patch”)  
  • Birth control pill (“the pill”)  
  • Intrauterine device (IUD)  
  • Birth control shot  
  • Condom: female polyurethane, and male latex or polyurethane Use the rubric provided in the teacher reference—assessment, “Assessment Rubric for Skill Development: Discussing the Pros and Cons of Pregnancy Prevention Methods,” if you want to assess students’ skill development. |
| Distribute the student worksheet, “Methods of Avoiding Pregnancy: Pros and Cons.” Discuss the pros and cons of six methods of preventing pregnancy, referring to the teacher key, “Methods of Avoiding Pregnancy: Pros and Cons.” | After ten minutes, ask for the students’ attention. Keep notes on your worksheets as each group’s spokesperson tries to convince you that his or her group’s assigned method of avoiding pregnancy is the best. Call on each spokesperson to share her or his group’s ideas. Clarify any misinformation or questions students have, using the teacher key. What were some of the most convincing arguments for using these six methods? Gather students’ ideas. |

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