

## **10 Best Practices for Working With Young Families**

1. Employ methods and strategies that support young mothers and fathers to work together for the mutual benefit of their children.
2. Develop and use models that will be of interest to young parents that reflect the culture in which they were raised.
3. Recruit staff, independent contractors and volunteers with experiences similar to your clients to assist with your program delivery.
4. Utilize an asset approach, rather than the deficit approach, throughout your service provision.
5. Recognize and address staff's personal biases regarding working with adolescent parents, especially young fathers.
6. Help clients get over suspicions that your focus is primarily paternity establishment or child support enforcement.
7. Schedule home visits with both parents, as appropriate.
8. Recognize and acknowledge the many barriers that young parents confront.
9. Promote a sense of trust, be genuine, don't pry, be caring, have high expectations, ask open ended questions, be consistent.
10. Offer clients a range of community resources that are father-inclusive.

Neil Tift, NPNFF, 304 Darrel Court, Stillwater MN 55082 651.351.2776