

Families, Caregivers, and Adults Who Work with Youth

Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, teachers, mentors, coaches, faith-based leaders, and club advisers have the most direct contact with youth and have a profound influence on their lives. They can help stop youth violence when they:

- Model what youth in their lives should do—stay calm when faced with conflict, seek help when upset, avoid using weapons to solve problems, and always choose nonviolent solutions.
- Pay attention when young people make good choices and praise them.
- Help youth see the connection between good choices and good outcomes.
- Spend time talking with youth and listen as they share what they've done and who they spent time with and proactively talk with them about possible difficulties and solutions.
- Set age-appropriate expectations for behavior, and notice and praise good choices.
- Have clear and nonviolent consequences for misbehavior.
- Notice warning signs, such as changes in how youth act, and immediately and repeatedly talk with them about possible problems and good solutions.
- Talk with young people about violence. Let them know they are expected to be nonviolent and help them develop skills to stay violence-free.
- Always know who young people are with, where they are, and what they are doing both in the community and online. Help them pick people, places, and activities at low risk for violence.
- Know and talk regularly with people who have a strong influence on youth, such as close friends and their parents, teachers, mentors, and neighbors.
- Prevent minors from getting unsupervised access to firearms—at home or from family and friends.
- Take advantage of help and assistance available in the community to address problems, such as violence in the home, mental health difficulties, or substance abuse and to support the healthy development of children.
- Share information and resources available in the community and online with others who can support the healthy and safe development of youth.

