

# 20 Ways NOT to Know Your Teen

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1. Your teen's friends will change. You don't need to know their best friend.
2. You of course are your teenager's hero. Does it matter who else they idolize?
3. Teenage music is overrated. Never find out what radio station they like to listen to.
4. You are busy. You don't have time to see sports games so don't even bother to find out if they want to play.
5. You are their most important teacher – the ones at school shouldn't be important to them.
6. As long as they're home by curfew, who cares where your teen hangs out?
7. All their stuff belongs to you, so why find out what items are important to them?
8. Your teen will be a fine doctor or lawyer. That's what you want so that's what they'll want.
9. Why does it matter what their greatest fear is? It should be failing and not getting into college.
10. You've decided the family is going to Savannah for vacation. You don't need to ask your kids where they want to go.
11. Your teen's given name is the only thing they should ever be called – regardless of the nickname they like.
12. Never ask what their favorite television show is – you might not like it.
13. Your teen's greatest accomplishment is their schoolwork – you don't need to ask if they agree.
14. You should never ask what their most embarrassing moment is because it will only make them relive it.
15. Of course your teen likes every subject because you are the parent of a genius.
16. Their life: that is the most important gift you have given them. Why bother asking?
17. Again, you gave birth to them. What complaints can they have about family life?
18. Don't ask what the music blaring from their iPod is. It's too loud and that's all you need to know.
19. You don't have to care what movies your teen likes or what they went to see last.
20. Your teen of course appreciates everything you do, so there's no need to ask what their favorite part of family life is.

Behaviors that put kids at risk are no laughing matter. These bullet points are designed to get parents and teens in dialog – with each other.  
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