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PAGE 176

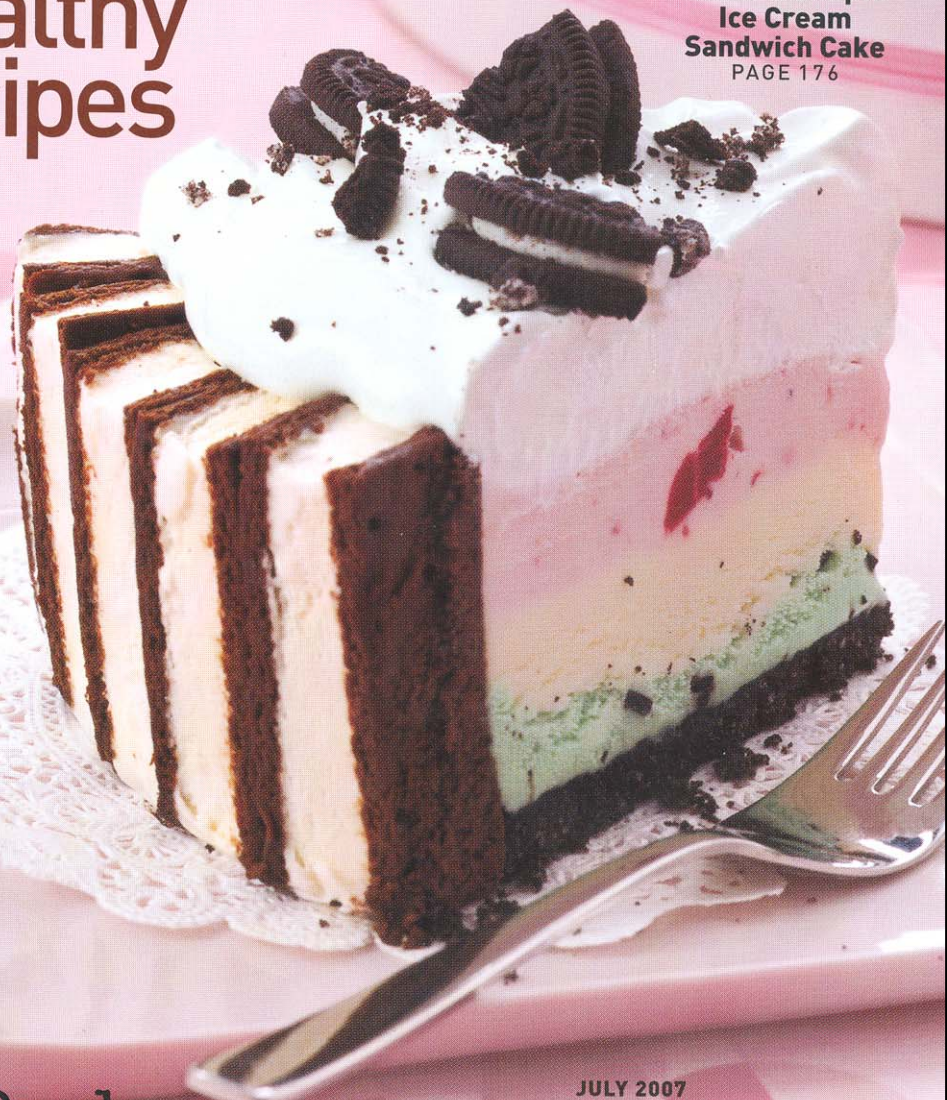
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7 Do's & Don'ts for Talking to Your Teen



JULY 2007
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"How could you do this to me?"

"You need to lose weight."

"Why can't you EVER REMEMBER to take out the trash?"

"You're so talented."

"You're wearing that? To school?"

TALK-STOPPER

"That boy is too old for you."

HANNAH STORM KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING



When I was a kid I'd come home from school and flop down at the kitchen counter to share a snack with my mother. Inevitably, I'd tell her about a

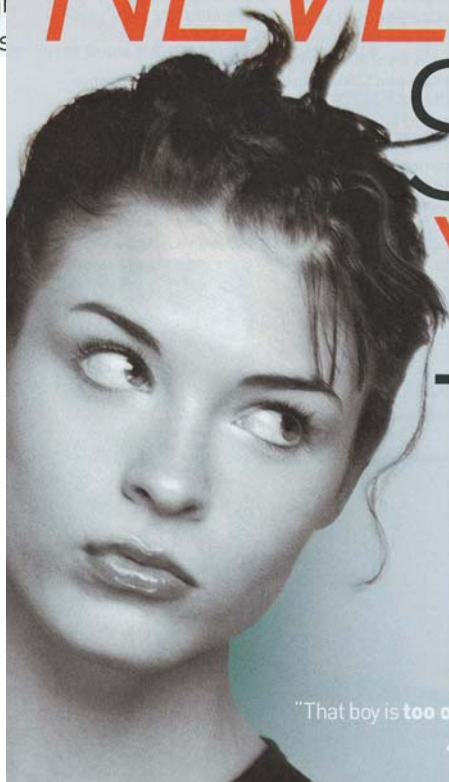
problem I was having with a friend and she'd say, "Hannah, if that girl really was your friend, she wouldn't

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Why it backfires To teens, forbidden fruit is extra tasty. But parents are right to worry. "A girl who has a relationship with a boy who is two or three years older is more likely to have sex, more likely to regret it and less likely to use contraception," says Sarah Brown, director of National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. If you ban the love interest, your daughter will find ways to hook up with him anyway. (For the same reasons, the less common scenario of a teenage boy dating an older girl may also be risky.)

Smarter solution Brown advocates allowing only group outings until kids are 16. And if it's too late, and Mr. Too-Old-For-Your-Baby already has his foot in the door? Explain the risks to your daughter, and tell her that she can see him only in your home, under your supervision. She won't like it, but you've got clout: Teens say parents are the number one influence on their decision to have sex. (Learn more about teens and sex at familycircle.com.)

7 THINGS NEVER TO SAY TO YOUR TEEN



FROM FRIENDS TO CLOTHES TO GRADES, THERE ARE SOME BUTTONS YOU JUST SHOULDN'T PUSH WITH YOUR KIDS. TRY THESE STRATEGIES INSTEAD. BY SARAH MAHONEY

"That boy is too old for you."

"We're getting you a car!"

se want."

at's more, when it's a nice way to tell yourself: Overweight. I know what talk about it. "Often, teens are miserable," be fat, but it's not easy to. As many kids (and adults!) are overweight. our child really is overweight—many times

