

# Teens racing to be parents need to think



**abigail van buren**

• dear abby

DEAR ABBY: I am 14 and ready to have a baby. My boyfriend, "Matt," is 16 and says he is ready, too. You should see how sweet and considerate he is around children.

As soon as Matt gets his car fixed, we are leaving New Jersey and not looking back. Before we go, I'd like to know what you think, Abby. Do you think I am ready to have a baby and raise it? — A.M. IN N.J.

DEAR A.M.: Babies are a full-time

job because they are completely dependent. You and Matt would be doing your future children a huge favor if you both complete your educations and become financially stable before embarking on this "project."

I have long urged women to be financially independent before having children. Matt may be a terrific young man, but what would happen to you and the baby if something were to happen to him? Before leaving New

Jersey and not looking back, please read the next letter:

DEAR ABBY: I am 16 years old and have a 5-month-old daughter. I thought her father and I would be together forever, but I was wrong. I was in love with him for more than two years.

My problem is, I can't seem to find a boyfriend who is right for me. Some boys don't mind that I have a baby, but all they want to do is go out with their friends. After a long day of feeding, changing and taking care of my daughter, I want someone at home to comfort me. Is there anything wrong with that? — LOVESICK IN NEW YORK

DEAR LOVESICK: Of course not. It's understandable. Mothers need

nurturing, too. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I am 19 and more mature than many teenagers my age. I have to be, since I am more than eight months pregnant. The baby's father, "Rob," and I are engaged and have been since before we conceived. Rob is also 19, but not as mature as I am. He still wants to go out with his friends, which is fine because we are both young. However, he doesn't understand that we must find free or inexpensive activities because our money needs to go toward baby things — clothes, blankets, diaper service, etc. I think Rob neglects me emotionally because he is scared of growing up. I think he may even be in denial that I am pregnant.

Abby, I have prayed about this and believe that Rob and I are meant to be together. I know he loves me, but sometimes I wonder if we met too soon in life.

Do you think we should take a short break from each other? I can't ask my family because they don't like Rob, and Rob's parents don't like me. Any suggestions? — E.W. IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR E.W.: Before "taking a break" from your boyfriend, consult a lawyer regarding child support and custody issues. A short break could become a long one if the father of this child is deeply enough into denial. Please don't wait. You're already eight months along. Make that call

today.

DEAR ABBY: Will you please settle a disagreement between my daughter and me? When is a child too old to be held? My 11-year-old grandson likes to sit on my lap when we watch television. He has been doing this since he was a baby.

My daughter says he is too old to be held. She says I baby him too much. What do you think? — LOVING GRANDMA IN OMAHA

DEAR LOVING GRANDMA: If he shows signs of immaturity in other areas, it could be a problem. If not (and he's not too heavy), hold your grandson tight. The truth is, many of us would give anything to sit on a loving grandmother's lap again.

TUESDAY EVENING											E= Eagle Cable S=S&T Telephone				AUG. 19, 2003					
E	S	6 pm	6:30	7 pm	7:30	8 pm	8:30	9 pm	9:30	10 pm	10:30									
2	2	PBS	Nova	How a bridge across the Mississippi River brings economic hope to a Missouri town. (PA)		Message in a Bubble		News	Being Served	Business Rpt.	BBC World News									
3	35	IND	★ ★ ★ "Deep Blue Sea" (1999, Suspense) (PA)	Thomas Jane, Saffron Burrows. (DVS)		(:10) MLB Baseball Atlanta Braves at San Francisco Giants. From Pacific Bell Park in San Francisco. (Live)														
4	6	ABC	8 Simple Rules	Life with Bonnie	According to Jim	Less Than Perfect		News	(:35) Nightline	(:06) Jimmy Kimmel Live Amy Smart; Adema.										
5	14	HBO	(5:00) ★ ★ ★ "Charlotte Gray" (2001) (PG-13)		★ ★ ★ "Boycott" (2001) The 1955 bus boycott in Montgomery, Ala. 'PG'	Jeffrey Wright. The story of the 1955 bus boycott in Montgomery, Ala. 'PG'		★ ★ ★ "Blood Work" (2002, Mystery) Clint Eastwood, Jeff Daniels, Anjelica Huston. (R)												
7	11	CBS	Big Brother 4 (TV) (N)	Cupid (TV) (Live) (N)		Judging Amy "Requiem" (N)		News	(:35) Late Show	(:37) Late Show										
8	8	NBC	Shania Twain Up! Live in Chicago	From Grant Park, Chicago. (N) (N)		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit (N)		News	(:35) Tonight Show	(:37) Late Night										
11	82	TVLND	Inside TV Land	Sanford	Bewitched	Griffith	Leave	I Love Lucy	Jeannie	MacGyver										
12	56	ESPN	2003 Poker	2003 Poker		Baseball Tonight		SportsCenter (Live)		X Games Highlights										
13	7	FOX	American Juniors (Season Finale) (N) (N)	The O.C. "The Gamble" (N) (N)		Fox Report With Shepard Smith		Blind Date	Blind Date	Paid Program	Paid Program									
15	29	MAX	(5:15) ★ ★ ★ "Ali" (2001, Biography) Will Smith. Based on the life story of legendary boxer Muhammad Ali. (R) (R)			(:45) ★ ★ ★ "Tin Cup" (1996) Kevin Costner. An undiscovered golfer attempts to reach the U.S. Open. (R) (R)														
16	41	SPK	Real TV (N)	Real TV (N)	Real TV (N)	Real TV (N)	Blind Date	Blind Date	Star Trek: Next Gener.	★ ★ "Kickboxer"										
17	44	DISN	Boy Meets World	Smart Guy	Sister, Sister	Even Stevens	Sister, Sister	Lizzie McGuire	"The Cheetah Girls" (2003) Raven. Four teens aim to take the world by storm with their music.											
18	63	LIFE	(5:00) "Vanished" (N)	"Abduction of Innocence: Moment-Truth"		Golden	Golden	Nanny	Nanny											
20	34	USA	JAG "Enemy Below" (N)	★ ★ "Head Over Heels" (2001) Monica Potter.		Dead Zone "Visions"		Nash Bridges												
21	24	SHOW	"When a Man" (N)	★ ★ "Texas Rangers" (2001) James Van Der Beek. "PG-13" (N)		★ ★ "The Distinguished Gentleman" (1992, Comedy) Eddie Murphy. (TV) (R) (R)		★ ★ "National Lampoon's Sex War" (R)												
22	26	TMC	"Cross-plot" (N)	(:45) ★ ★ ★ "UHF" (1989, Comedy) Al Yankovic, Michael Richards, Kevin McCarthy. (N)		★ ★ ★ "Zoobander" (2001, Comedy) Ben Stiller, Owen Wilson. (N)		★ ★ "Sidewalks of New York" (2001) (N)												
23	77	MTV	Direct Effect (N)	VMA: Moments		MTV Special (N)		Prime Time Players (N)		Real World	Real World									
24	50	DISC	Life of Mammals "Plant Predators"	Life of Mammals "Chiselers"		FBI Files "Driven to Kill" (N)		New Detectives: Forensic Science		Nefertiti Resurrected										
28	37	TNT	Law & Order "Divorce"	Law & Order (DVS)	Charmed (N)		Law & Order "Trust" (N)		X-Files "Patience" (N)											
30	55	FXSP	NASCAR Pregame	MLB Baseball Florida Marlins at Colorado Rockies. (Subject to Blackout)		Rocky Mt. (N)		Rocky Mt.		Rocky Mt.										
32	46	FAM	★ ★ ★ "Hot Shots!" (1991) Charlie Sheen.		Who's? (N)	Who's? (N)	700 Club (N)		Caroline Rhea Show											
33	9	NBC	News (N)	Ent. Tonight	Shania Twain Up! Live in Chicago	From Grant Park, Chicago. (N) (N)	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit (N)		News (N)	(:35) Tonight Show										
34	43	NICK	Oddparents Amanda (N)	Cosby	Cosby	Cheers (N)	Cheers (N)	3's Co. (N)	3's Co. (N)	Cosby	Cosby									
36	53	A&E	Biography: Patrick Swayze	Cold Case Files Police suspect a former officer.		MI-5 "The Rose Bed Memoirs" Arms dealing.		Third Watch "Know Thyself" (N)		Biography: Patrick Swayze										
38	83	SCIFI	Beyond Bizarre (N)	Beyond Bizarre (N)	Marc Salem		★ ★ "Swamp Thing" (1982) Ray Wise. (N)													
39	51	TLC	While You Were Out	Home Again (N)	Home Again (N)		World's Most Astonishing Undercover Stings		What Were You Thinking? "All You Can Eat"		What Were You Thinking?									
40	38	FX	Married... Married...	Buffey Vampire		Buffey Vampire		★ ★ "Under Siege 2: Dark Territory" (1995)												
45	31	FMC	(:01) ★ ★ ★ "The Detective" (1968) Lee Remick			(:01) ★ ★ ★ "D-Day, the Sixth of June" (1956)		"The Longest Day"												
49	81	E!TV	Anna Kournikova	Young, Rich		Wild On... (N)		Howard S. (N)	Howard S. (N)	Wild On... "Panama"										
51	86	TRAV	Spend in Vegas	Secrets (N)		Secrets (N)		Spend in Vegas		Secrets (N)										
53	3	WB	Friends (N)	Everybody-Raymond		Gilmore Girls "A Tale of Poes and Fire" (N)		Smallville "Visage" (N)		Friends (N)	Will & Grace (N)									
54	57	ESPN2	Little League	X Games (Taped) (N)				Streetball	Streetball	Beg, Borrow & Deal 2										
58	52	HIST	Modern Marvels Rare firearms. (N)	Wild West Tech Wild Bill Hickok. (N)		Modern Marvels "Metal" (N)		Perfect Crimes? (N)		Modern Marvels Rare firearms. (N)										
59	-	HLTH	Doctors Diaries (N)	Workout	Bodies		Health Specials (N)		Doctors Diaries (N)		Workout	Bodies								
60	89	UNIV	Velo de Novia	Niña... Amada Mia		Ver Para Creer		P. Impacto	Noticiero	En las Mejores Familias										
62	67	HGTV	Ground Landscap	Room	Decorating		House	Curb		Ground Landscap	Room	Decorating								
99	36	WGN	(5:30) ★ ★ ★ "Being There" (1979) (N)			News (N)		Rockford Files		In the Heat of the Night										

WEDNESDAY EVENING											E= Eagle Cable S=S&T Telephone				AUG. 20, 2003					
E	S	6 pm	6:30	7 pm	7:30	8 pm	8:30	9 pm	9:30	10 pm	10:30									
2	2	PBS	American Masters "Hitchcock, Seinfeld & the End of Hollywood" (N)		George Cukor: On Cukor "An American Masters Special" (N)		News	Bless Me, Father	Business Rpt.	BBC World News										
3	35	IND	Seinfeld (N)	Seinfeld (N)	Ripley's Believe It or Not!		"Red Water" (2003) Lou Diamond Phillips. A shark in the river complicates a search for stolen money.													
4	6	ABC	My Wife and Kids	George Lopez	Real Roseanne Show (N) (N)		Family Family members learn the art of fencing.		News (N)	(:35) Nightline										
5	14	HBO	(5:45) ★ ★ ★ "The Fifth Element" (1997, Science Fiction) Bruce Willis, Ian Holm. (PG-13)		★ ★ ★ "Mission: Impossible" (1996, Adventure) Tom Cruise, Jon Voight. (PG-13)															
7	11	CBS	60 Minutes II (N) (N)	Big Brother 4 (TV) (Live) (N)		48 Hours "Precious Angels" (N)		News (N)	(:35) Late Show	(:37) Late Show										
8	8	NBC	Law & Order "Open Season" (N)	West Wing "Privateers"		Law & Order "The Ring" (N)		News (N)	(:35) Tonight Show	(:37) Late Night										
11	82	TVLND	Fantasy Island (N)	Sanford	Bewitched	Griffith	Leave	I Love Lucy	Jeannie	MacGyver (N)										
12	56	ESPN	Little League	X Games (Taped) (N)				SportsCenter (Live) (N)		X Games Highlights										
13	7	FOX	That '70s Show (N)	Bernie Mac Show (DVS)	Paradise Hotel (TV) (N)		Fox Report With Shepard Smith		Blind Date	Blind Date	Paid Program	Paid Program								
15	29	MAX	"Sister Act 2: Back" (N)	Taking the Wheel (N)		★ ★ "Star Trek V: The Final Frontier" (1989, Science Fiction) William Shatner. (PG)		★ ★ "The Rules of Attraction" (2002, Drama) James Van Der Beek. (R) (R)												
16	41	SPK	Real TV (N)	Real TV (N)	Real TV (N)	Real TV (N)	Blind Date	Blind Date	Star Trek: Next Gener.	★ ★ "Hellbound"										
17	44	DISN	Boy Meets World	Smart Guy	Sister, Sister	Even Stevens	Sister, Sister	Lizzie McGuire	★ ★ ★ "Brink!" (1998) Erik von Detten. An in-line skater deserts his pals to join a rival team.											
18	63	LIFE	"Rough Air: Flight 534" (N)	"Deadly Betrayal" (2002) Nicolette Sheridan. (N)		Golden	Golden	Nanny	Nanny											
20	34	USA	(5:00) ★ ★ ★ "Backdraft" (1991) Kurt Russell.		Peacemakers (N)		Law Order Cl													
21	24	SHOW	★ ★ "The Principal" (1987, Drama) James Belushi, Louis Gossett Jr. (TV) (R) (R)		★ ★ ★ "Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius" (2001) (TV) (G) (G)		★ ★ ★ "Spy Kids" (2001, Adventure) Antonio Banderas. (TV) (PG) (N)													
22	26	TMC	(5:30) "The Young Girl and the Monsoon" (1971) Michael Brandon, Tippy Walker.		★ ★ "Blue Moon" (2000) Ben Gazzara, Rita Moreno. (N)		★ ★ "Vanilla Sky" (2001) Tom Cruise. (N)													
23	77	MTV	Direct Effect (N)	MTV Special (N)		MTV Spec		Newlyweds		Hard Rock	Band II	Band II								
24	50	DISC	Life of Mammals "Meat Eaters"	Life of Mammals "The Opportunists"		Now See This! (N)		Unsolved History (N)		Prince William Turns 2 (Part 1 of 2)										
28	37	TNT	★ ★ ★ "Above the Law" (1988) Steven Seagal.		★ ★ ★ "Above the Law" (1988) Steven Seagal.															
30	55	FXSP	NASCAR Pregame	MLB Baseball Florida Marlins at Colorado Rockies. (Subject to Blackout)		Rocky Mt. (N)		Rocky Mt.		Rocky Mt.										
32	46	FAM	"Perfect Little Angels" (1998) Cheryl Ladd. (N)		Who's? (N)	Who's? (N)	700 Club (N)		Caroline Rhea Show											
33	9	NBC	News (N)	Ent. Tonight	Law & Order "Open Season" (N)		West Wing "Privateers"		Law & Order "The Ring" (N)											
34	43	NICK	Oddparents Amanda (N)	Cosby	Cosby	Cheers (N)	Cheers (N)	3's Co. (N)	3's Co. (N)	Cosby	Cosby									
36	53	A&E	Biography "Roseanne: Tabloids, Trash & Truth"	American Justice: Sister Against Sister		Take This Job... "Bite Me" Alligator wrestlers.		Third Watch "Run of the Mill" (N)		Biography "Roseanne: Tabloids, Trash & Truth"										
38	83	SCIFI	Tracker "Breach" (N)	★ ★ "I Still Know What You Did Last Summer" (1999, Horror) (N)		★ ★ "Modern Vampires" (1999, Horror) (N)														
39	51	TLC	While You Were Out																	