

Active Parenting for Stepfamilies

Video 6 – Celebrating Stepfamily Successes

The Purpose of this Video

This “Video Library” version of the group discussion program, Active Parenting for Stepfamilies, is designed for parents to view on their own or in groups when time does not allow for the full two-hour sessions. Because group viewing can be enhanced through discussion, the following questions will help a leader facilitate such a discussion. Most of the questions are aimed at helping parents apply the information in the video to their own lives, and they can be used as part of a large-group discussion or by having participants form pairs or small groups. Ask as many questions as time allows and, of course, feel free to add or delete questions as you think best for your audience.

Experience has shown that parents who read the accompanying Parent’s Guide (sold separately) will best be able to utilize the skills presented in the video.* However, when this is not possible, we suggest that you give each participant a copy of the enclosed “Program at a Glance” brochure. (Permission is granted to photocopy the brochures and this guide.)

Leading a Group Discussion

Introduce the video by asking a few questions, such as:

- The video we are here to see is called “Celebrating Stepfamily Successes.” What are some ways that you celebrate successes in your stepfamily?
- How many of you are concerned about teens using tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs or engaging in violence and irresponsible sex? We’ll explore ways you can help prevent these risks.

Play the video and follow with questions such as these:

1. What did you learn or find helpful from this video?
2. As you saw in the video, Character Talks are useful for talking to your children about your family’s values surrounding a topic of concern—like drugs—so that they make good decisions when you’re not around. What are some examples of topics that you have talked to your children about, or that you plan to address with them?
4. What ideas from the video will help you have a better Character Talk?
5. Why is it especially important to begin talking with your children about alcohol and other drugs at an early age? What did you like about how the parents in the video talked with Ben about this?
6. We also heard from some parents in actual stepfamilies talk about how they celebrate successes. Did anyone get some new ideas from this or think of other ways that you celebrate?
7. What about the advice that they shared with you? What hit home with you?
8. What makes your job as a parent one of the most important jobs in the world?