

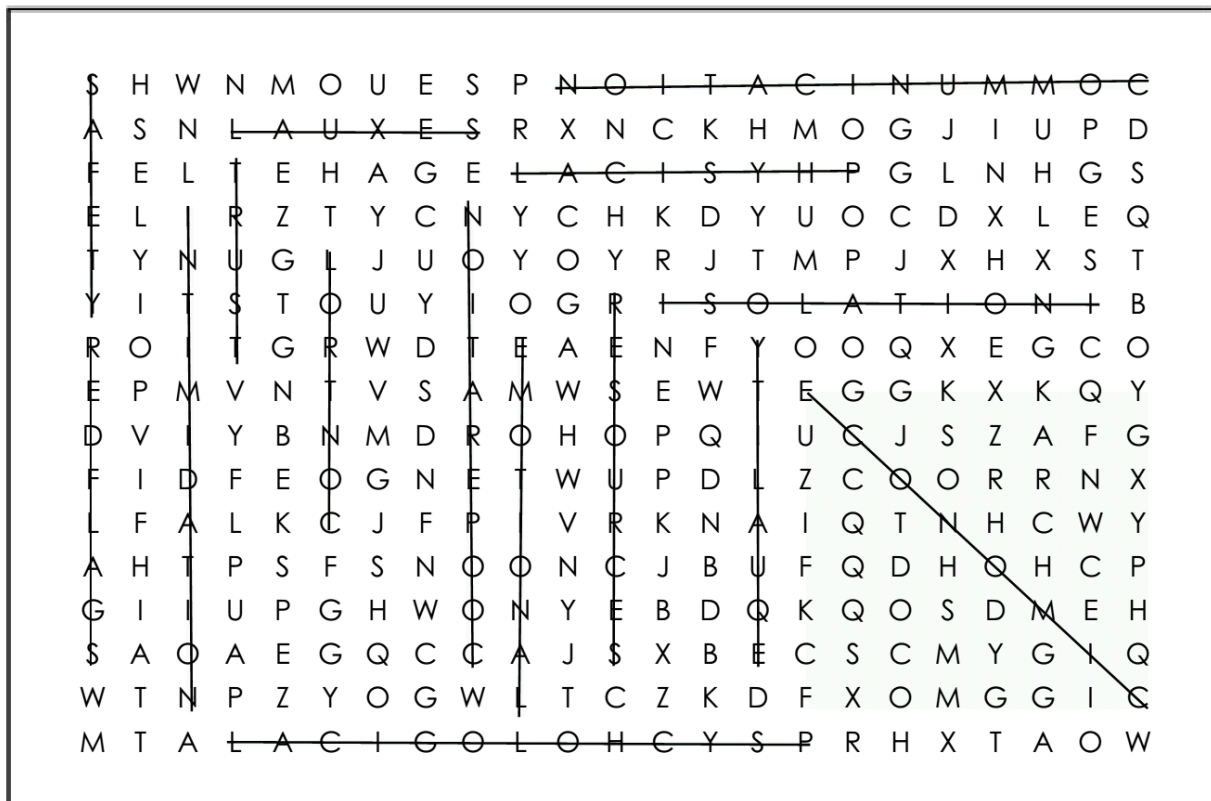
Teen Dating Violence

Teen Dating Violence is not gender or race specific, males and females of any background can be victims of abusive relationships. Before your child starts dating, parents should have an open dialogue of what a

Healthy Relationship looks like. A Healthy Relationship means that both partners are able to communicate their feelings without fear of retaliation. Dating partners should be able to trust each other and have a clear understanding of boundaries within the relationship. Cooperation is important because it allows for there to be compromise and mutually agreed upon solutions to any problems that may arise.

Have many conversations with your teen about what their boundaries are and what they view as acceptable and unacceptable behavior from a dating partner. As parents, you should also look at your own relationships; are you modeling positive behaviors? For many teens, their parents are the first example of an intimate relationship.

Child Advocacy Services offers *Safe Dates: An Adolescent Abuse Prevention Curriculum* for teens in St. Charles, St. John, and St. James Parishes. For more information, please contact Angela Golden, 985-785-5226 or agolden@childadv.net



For more information on how to start the conversation, please visit loveisrespect.org or breakthecycle.org. These websites offer resources for parents and teens to use in understanding their relationships.