

MTV 16 and Pregnant

Season 3 - Episode 5
"Cleondra"

EPISODE SUMMARY

Regarded as the most likely to succeed in her family, Cleondra shocks everyone by getting pregnant at 16. Now she must face the tough decision to leave the comfort of her own home and move in with her boyfriend.



STUFF TO THINK ABOUT AND DISCUSS

- ✦ Unlike a lot of the other girls on "16 and Pregnant" who got pregnant right away with new boyfriends (Jennifer and Josh from earlier this season had only been together a few months, same with Jamie and Ryan, and with many of the other girls from past seasons too), Cleondra and Mario have been together for a few years already. Did their relationship seem different to you than some of the others? Did they seem closer or more comfortable with each other? Cleondra thinks Mario doesn't care about her anymore now that the baby has arrived. Why might that be? Do you think they'll make it and stay together for the long haul?
 - ✓ A pregnancy changes every relationship—even the strongest ones. Sometimes people think that having sex without protection is okay if your relationship is strong—if you can trust the other person then it's not a big deal. But the truth is, being in a serious relationship is a good reason to use birth control all the time, not a good reason to stop.
 - ✓ Need more info on how to prevent pregnancy? Check out www.itsyoursexlife.com/gyt/protect/what-works-what-doesnt.
- ✦ Both Cleondra and Mario get a lot of help from their parents. Their childcare plan is like a family patchwork: Monday with Cleondra's mom's boyfriend, Tuesday with Mario because it's his day off, Wednesday with Mario's mom, Thursday with Cleondra's mom, Friday with Mario's sister, and then weekends with Cleondra. What do you think they would have to do if their families weren't so willing to help? Do you think your family would be as supportive if you were in that kind of situation? What do you think teens without help from their families do instead?
 - ✓ Babies may give unconditional love, but they also require it. Being a parent is a 24/7/365/18 year + job that you can't just quit.
- ✦ There's a lot of debate between Cleondra and Mario about whose house they are going to stay at and where they are going to live, even though they already live directly across the street from each other. Why do you think Cleondra is so unhappy about staying at Mario's? Why do you think Mario is so unwilling to sleep at Cleondra's? How do you think this will eventually get resolved? What kind of an impact do you think it will have on baby Kylee?

- ✓ Teen pregnancy often means putting your dreams on hold. Cleondra had to give up the dance team and Mario took a full time job and decided to forgo his plans to join the military. Have you ever thought about what you would have to give up if you were in a similar situation? Cleondra says that "Once you have a kid, it's your kid first and then you." Would you be able to put someone else's needs first 100% of the time?

STUFF TO KEEP IN MIND

- ✦ Most teen girls who get pregnant never thought it would happen to them.
- ✦ Thinking it won't happen doesn't count—or work—as birth control.
- ✦ The majority of girls who have babies before age 18 don't graduate from high school. Fewer than 2% graduate from college by age 30.
- ✦ Teen pregnancy is hard on teens—but much harder on their babies.
- ✦ A baby won't make him stay. Eight out of 10 fathers don't marry the teen mother of their child. Most couples don't stay together at all.
- ✦ Once there is a pregnancy, every road ahead is hard—whether the choice is to become a teen parent, make an adoption plan, or have an abortion. In comparison to any of those, preventing a pregnancy is easy.
- ✦ It takes two people to get pregnant, but only one to prevent it. Be that one!

RESOURCES

Have questions or need to know where to go? Check out these trusted sites and hotlines:

- ✦ Think you might be pregnant or need to find a health clinic? Call Planned Parenthood at 1-800-230 PLAN (7526) or visit www.PlannedParenthood.org.
- ✦ Questions about sexual health, STDs, or getting tested? Check out MTV's www.ItsYourSexLife.com.
- ✦ Looking for information about all the available birth control methods and where you can go to get them? Go to www.Bedsider.org.
- ✦ Want more facts and tips on teen pregnancy and how to prevent it (waiting, contraception, talking with parents and peers, etc.)? Go to www.StayTeen.org and www.TheNationalCampaign.org.

**FIND OUT MORE AT STAYTEEN.ORG
AND ITSYOURSEXLIFE.COM**