

MTV 16 and Pregnant

Season 3 - Episode 9
"Taylor"

EPISODE SUMMARY

Taylor's mom wants her to choose adoption, but Taylor and her boyfriend Nathan feel that they can overcome the challenges of being teen parents. Then Nathan disappoints Taylor as they prepare for parenthood, and she begins to question whether he can be the kind of dad she needs him to be.



Taylor & Aubri

STUFF TO THINK ABOUT AND DISCUSS

- ✦ Both Taylor and Nathan know how hard it is to grow up without a father so it's important to them that Aubri have two parents in her life. But is Nathan stepping up? He complains about his parenting responsibilities, he doesn't contribute financially, he hasn't had to make many sacrifices in terms of school, and he isn't very kind or supportive to Taylor. So, what does it mean to be a parent? Taylor's mom says "It's not about you anymore, it's about the baby." Does it seem like Nathan is making the baby a priority? Do you think Aubri will be a "daddy's girl" like they envisioned?
 - ✓ Sometimes girls (and guys) think a baby will bring them closer and solidify their relationship. But what usually happens is the exact opposite, and Taylor and Nathan are no exception. Now that Taylor is a mom she says her relationship with Nathan would be better if they didn't have a child.
 - ✓ Nobody said being a parent was easy. But it's a lot easier when you're done with school, financially stable, and in a relationship with someone who is truly committed to you and to your child.
- ✦ Before Aubri was born Taylor just assumed she'd be able to go back to high school, but without any money coming in there were no options for daycare so she had to settle for "virtual school" online so she could stay home. So in addition to being up all night with the baby, Taylor is also away from her friends and her social life. She says "it sucks" and that she just wants her teen years back. Birth control could have prevented all of this. Finding a method of contraception that works for you, and using it properly and carefully every single time doesn't just protect against pregnancy—it also protects your life and your future.
 - ✓ Want to find out more about all the methods available? Go to www.itsyoursexlife.com/gyt/protect/what-works-what-doesnt. Need help getting your birth control or sticking to it? Go to www.bedsider.org.
- ✦ When Taylor's mom got pregnant as a teenager she chose adoption, and she really wanted Taylor to make that same choice. Obviously Taylor and Nathan made the decision to parent instead. Do you think they had any idea what it would really be like? How do you think their lives would be different now had they made an adoption plan? How do you think their lives would have been different in the future? What about Aubri's life?

- ✓ Adoption is not an easy decision, which is one of the reasons very few teens actually make adoption plans for their babies, but sometimes it is the best thing for everyone involved. If you want to learn more about adoption—how it works, how to support a friend who is in that process, what rights birth parents have, and more—go to www.ichooseadoption.org.

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**