

Advising TOF (Teens of the Forum)

Posted by briut - 13 Apr 2010 12:44

Rabosai,

I'm hoping for your input here. There's a question heavy on my mind right now.

[size=14pt] Q: What's the proper flavor of hadracha (guidance) to give a young person who's part of the Forum?[/size]

You see, I generally assume the members (AND the unregistered "lurkers") are all "of a certain age." You know: legal adults, past the initial rushes of puberty, self-aware of who they are and what they stand for, etc etc. Most of us are. And I post with that in mind.

Still, younger folks are part of the Forum, too. They may have a real "addiction" issue, or may just be red-blooded frum teens trying to reconcile G-d's dual gifts to them of His Torah and an adult body. They might be so young that it's inappropriate (or even illegal?) to chat with them in the way we'd chat with an older member.

So, my question in more detail becomes stuff like:

- 1) Should we assume that any teen who found GYE has a serious lust issue, or should we reassure them that some challenge is perfectly normal?
- 2) Are there limits in the postings etc we make to them (like suggesting that one mz'l brings gehinnom, or promoting SA)?
- 3) Should we censor our posts to other adults because teens could be listening?
- 4) What's the right age for us to stop worrying about their age?

Thanks.

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Re: Advising TOF (Teens of the Forum)

Posted by kidushashem - 24 Nov 2011 21:14

totally. Parents should take the initiative and speak to their children. Better to start before the more problematic age. I'm speaking to all those parents out there: you are the big boys, not your kids. Your kid probably doesn't have the guts, emotional intelligence and other necessary tools to approach you. YOU have to take the initiative and tactfully explain things, show your love, make it clear that open communication always pays off and that you love your child unconditionally.

I wish I had felt that from my parents and believe me, my parents are both incredibly loving and good parents. My Mother especially is an outstanding parent. But she had no clue as a woman about the intricacies of manhood. As fathers, you guys really need to get talking with your sons and develop that kind of relationship. Woe onto the father who intimidates his son and creates barriers of fear.

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Re: Advising TOF (Teens of the Forum)

Posted by the.guard - 26 Nov 2011 19:03

GYE is happy to announce the launch of a booklet for parents and mechanchim called:

["Protecting our Youth: Experts Speak"](#)

Download it by right-clicking the link and choosing "Save Target/Link As".

It contains a few articles by mechanchim and therapists, written especially for GYE, dealing with **how to talk to children about these sensitive issues**, how to protect children, and how to detect risk factors and warning signs.

We hope this booklet will grow as more experts send in articles on this topic. If you'd like to recommend anyone to write articles for this booklet, please let us know.

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