

To our teen guests and their parents, I want to comment on a situation which occurred.

There was a VERY serious incident last evening in my opinion.

Because of this incident, we have cancelled teen night for March 19<sup>th</sup> and will be reviewing whether or not teen night will be held again. Please call or check our website AFTER March 19<sup>th</sup> to confirm when and if teen night will re-start. No decision regarding the future of teen night will be made prior to that date. If you have any comments, concerns, etc, we are willing to listen. You may call or text me at 615-423-4187 or e-mail me at debbykidd@gmail.com

Last evening, March 12<sup>th</sup>, we had two pairs of girls decide to leave the building without talking to me or my husband. All of their parents were contacted and were made very aware of how dangerous we felt that was and they were asked to speak to their children. They left through a locked door which has a sign reminding them not to open it. It also has a small ribbon tied to it so we can see if it has been opened. The ribbon was broken and the door was left ajar. This meant ANYONE could have walked in from the outside, a true safety concern to us. Peer pressure may have played a part, but we work hard to make sure your kids are safe and they can ALWAYS use our rules as an excuse to go against peer pressure. I have heard more than once "Miss Debby won't let us do that." I'm willing to be the bad guy. We care too much about our teens to let them disobey our very simple rules and ruin teen night for everyone. We have made sure more than one teen got home safely when a parent didn't show up or a friend ditched them. While we have no plans on being a taxi service, we care too much about the kids to let them walk to Columbia when their parent dropped them here and their friend left early, leaving them without a ride. We know the teens need to let off steam and be a little "wild". That's why we don't have many rules on teen night, but what we have we enforce very strongly. We have appropriateness standards for clothing, PDA and language, but do not want to classify them as "rules" for obvious reasons.

We only have **FOUR RULES** here during teen night. The first two rules are safety and responsibility. The second two are care of property and responsibility. We review these rules with both the parent (**who has to sign their child in the first time they come**) and the teen so everyone is aware of our expectations.

- 1) **Do not leave the premises without speaking to one of the adults (Mark or Debby normally).**  
If you drove, you are free to drive yourself home whenever you like. If you came with someone you are to go with them unless we know of the change in transportation. If you walked here you are free to walk home. However, WE MUST KNOW YOU ARE LEAVING. This is for your safety. It is also for the safety of everyone else. If you leave a door open and someone comes in and hurts someone else, or if you leave with a friend without us knowing and get hurt, lawsuits prevail. Legally, we are not responsible for you. We are not your babysitters. However, morally and spiritually, while you are here, we do our best to make sure you come to no harm. That's why your parents let you come here. We treat you almost like our own kids – if they were teens. Once you choose to leave, you are done for the night. We do not allow in and out privileges. However, if there is ever a SAFETY issue, you can always come back into the lobby and wait for a parent and/or the police.

If, God forbid, there was an incident of any kind (fire, fight, etc.) I want to know whom I need to account for. I don't want to send a fireman into a burning building to look for someone who decided to sneak out. But, if you are here, I want to make SURE I send that fireman in after you. In an emergency, one of the first things I grab is the sign in sheet so I know who is in the building. That's a large part of why you sign in.

- 2) **Do not hurt yourself or anyone else.** This seems silly, but teens (and others) sometimes have to be reminded to pay attention and not hurt themselves, damage the equipment, or hurt each other. Popped balls happen. Please bring them to us so they don't damage the equipment. If a teen does make a bad choice and do something "stupid" (which we all do from time to time, even me!), don't blame us because we warned you not to.
- 3) **No gum, candy, or food/beverages of ANY kind in our fun room.** We allow soda bottles, but still prefer they stay in the hall. This is for the care of the equipment and the facility.
- 4) **Keep your socks on to play on the equipment.** This is care of equipment and for your feet. Sliding will give you "vinyl burn" on any exposed part of skin. Socks are also more sanitary than bare feet.

***We DO NOT want to have to treat any teens attending teen night like little children. Our rules for open play are:***  
Feet first at all times, no flips. Do not climb up or over the sides of the equipment. Do not climb up the slide. Do not jump on the slide, just sit and slide. Wait for the slide to clear before you start, but you may slide with a friend. Exit the slide when you are done. No running. No food in the fun room. Shoes go in the shoe cubbies. No throwing the balls at people, just to them.

These rules are imposed because we have VERY different size people all playing together. We do not enforce these rules on teen night. You know to look out for each other and we have had very few incidents.

Teen night is WAY more fun than that. Teens climb up the slides, make chains down and over the slide, Jump over the side of the slide or from one side to another, and so much more. We only allow this with the caveat do not hurt yourself or others. We expect you to be grown up and responsible enough to know your limitations so we impose very little rules and regulations on you. However, we require that you give us the courtesy and respect due us by following the rules we have. This means making sure we know you are leaving and with whom you are leaving.