16. SUBJECT: Keeping your eyes open...

As kids get older, friends become more important to them. It’s probably not too strong to say that their friends become even more important than we are! This is a natural part of growing up.

# Mark Twain once said, “When I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be 21, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years.”

# During that time when our kids think we are idiots (don’t worry—they’ll come around!), we’ve got to make sure that we keep an eye on their friendships and take a hands-on approach.

Here’s today’s *Tip for Modern Parents*:

**Make your home the “hangout” place for your child and his or her friends.**

This might be inconvenient at times, but it’s well worth the investment. Host pizza night in your home on a regular basis. Have your child’s friends over to play basketball in the driveway or board games in the living room.

Establish an open door policy for your child’s friends—you will reap the benefits for years to come.

Onward to better parenting,

ADD NAME