

**TEACHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION
DATING MOTIVES**

1. **What do I expect from dating?** Consider the following answers:
 - I expect someone to do things with, a companion.
 - I hope for a date that is a friend, to understand and accept me.
 - I want someone that has similar values and standards.
 - I expect my date to have a pleasant personality and to be fun to be with.
 - I want someone that I think is good-looking, intelligent; someone I am proud to be seen with.
 - I need to be able to trust my date, and be able to share honest feelings with.
 - I want my date to treat my family and friends with respect and friendship.
 - I expect to live up to these expectations for my dates also.

2. **Why do we date?**
 - Dating is a natural part of growing up, it has many benefits, and is a time to look forward to and enjoy as you experience it.
 - Dating helps in meeting different kinds of people, and it may begin a selection process for the kind of date you enjoy being with. Long term dating helps with mate selection. "You have to date a lot of frogs before you find the prince" or something like that!
 - Dating introduces you to new social settings and gives you new experiences that you might not otherwise take advantage of.
 - Dating gives you companionship.

3. **When is the best age to start dating?**

This is a personal answer, but consider the following options:

 - When you feel socially ready.
 - When your parents give permission.
 - The younger you begin dating, the more likely you are to move to early pairing and single dating. These are not without concern.
 - When YOU are ready, not when your friends are ready. Remember, everyone has a different dating time clock.
 - Girls are generally ready to date before boys are, and are more likely to date older boys.

4. **Who should I date?**
 - Someone you are attracted to--not just a physical attraction, but someone who is intelligent, fun to be around, talented, etc.
 - Someone close to your own age. The older the date is, the more they may expect from you in terms of time involvement, personal commitment, or

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physical intimacy. Beware of the older person looking for a young innocent date, and if there is more than a 2-3 year age gap, ask yourself if there is something about that person that hinders them from dating people in their own age group.

- Date someone your parents approve of. Parents are very protective and may get nervous handing over their precious baby daughter or special little boy to a stranger that may have selfish motives. If your parents disapprove of your choice in a date, talk it over and see what you can do to resolve it. You might try going to dinner with your parents so they can get to know him/her better.
- Date someone with similar values and standards. You both will be more comfortable, and you might avoid embarrassing or dangerous situations.

5. Check your dating motives -

As you begin the dating scene, keep in mind that not all prospective dates have your best interest at heart. Sad but true. There are healthy and unhealthy motives for dating.

Healthy Motives	Unhealthy Motives
Share social experiences	To be seen socially with the right people
Meet new people	Use another for the places they can take them
Get to know friends better	To make someone else jealous
Have fun	Use another for the presents they can buy them
Try new experiences	Use another for emotional support to get over another person
Go to new places	Use another for physical gratification, or date them expecting physical favors.