

## **TEACHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION USING GOOD JUDGMENT**

Everyone makes decisions everyday--what time to get up, what to eat for breakfast, what to wear, how to do your hair, whether or not to do homework, etc. There are good decisions and bad. Good judgment means that you consider the risks and weigh the consequences so that when you make a choice, you will weed out the decisions that may cause harmful or disastrous consequences to your life and health.

According to Dr. Stephen Glenn, good judgment is a product of experience, but it is more than that. We know this because we all have experience, but we don't all have good judgment. The development of judgment comes when we understand our experiences. We look at:

- What has happened?
- Why did that happen?
- What could I do next time so it might not happen again?  
(or so that it will happen again, if the experience was positive)?

Perception is the basic element of judgment since one cannot respond to something until it is recognized or perceived. In order to make a judgment, a person must be able to determine these things from his/her experiences:

1. What is significant about the experience?
2. Why is it significant?
3. How does it or will it affect the decisions I make in the future?
4. How does it or will it affect my actions in the future?

It is important that we learn from the experiences of others. An individual cannot possibly learn everything for himself/herself, but must rely on the learnings of those around him/her and/or individuals from history. By observing the actions, decisions, judgments, and consequences of others, we can learn a great deal.

Glenn, H. Stephen; *Developing Capable Young People*