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**UNIT:** Decisions That Affect Children**LESSON:** Parenting Resources**TIME:** 1-2 days

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**COMPETENCIES:**

1. Assess different types of resources available to parents to help them learn effective methods of parenting (e.g., parenting magazines, parent support groups, parenting videos, classes, books, etc.). (Options 2, 4, and 5)
  2. Determine the focus and purposes of child support agencies. (Option 3)
  3. Identify local resources available for parent and/or child assistance. (Options 3, 4, and 5)
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**OVERVIEW/SUMMARY:**

Parenting is an extremely important and difficult responsibility. Our society does not provide adequate training and preparation for this area of our lives. However, there are many resources available to aid parents in learning these skills and dealing with problems found in families.

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**MOTIVATOR:**

Invite a representative from a local PERC or other parent resource center to talk about the services and resources that he/she has available to aid parents in their responsibilities.

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**LESSON OPTIONS/SUPPLIES:****OPTION 1**

**BOOK:** Any book dealing with a helping agency: doctors, social services, family support center, extended family, etc.

**OPTION 2--Competency 1**

**READING:** Using various parenting magazines available in the classroom, assign students to read two parenting articles from two different magazines. Summarize the article and evaluate the effectiveness of that particular article in aiding parents. Select a few students to share one of their article reviews with the class.

**OPTION 3--Competencies 2 and 3**

**FIELD TRIP:** Take a field trip to your community's family support center. Make certain that someone is available to talk to the class about the purpose of the center, what resources are available to help parents, who they serve, and to give them a tour of the facility.

**OPTION 4--Competencies 1 and 3**

**CASE STUDIES:** Working in partners or small groups, give each group a case study. Have them read the case study and then research what resources are available in your community to aid the parents in that situation. Instruct them to list as many resources as possible and to identify exactly what is available and how they would provide help for the parents.

**OPTION 5--Competencies 1 and 3**

**OBSERVATION:** Assign students to investigate one resource for parents and to report to the class. They should identify the group's focus or purpose (credo), services it provides and any other pertinent information. Some groups you may wish to assign include ALANON, Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Catholic Charities, Emotions Anonymous, Family Support Center, Child Abuse Prevention Council, Parents Without Partners, Planned Parenthood, Overeaters Anonymous, Adult Children of Alcoholics, Gamblers Anonymous, Social Services, etc.