

---

---

## LESSON B

### Relationships and Parenting

**FOCUS:** Recognize that parenthood will affect other relationships.

**ACTIVITIES:**

1. Students will recognize how the relationships with their spouse, family, and friends change when they become parents. Use Teacher Information, "Relationships" Make a list as a class of how a couple's life will be different after having a child. Particularly discuss how having a child will affect their relationships with their friends.
2. Divide students into small groups of 4-6 to analyze how parenthood would affect schedules. Use Student Handout, "Parenthood and Work." Discuss with the students how a new baby affects the father's and the mothers employment.

## Relationships

### With Spouse...

During pregnancy, the relationship between prospective parents changes as the couple prepares for the child. Invite two or more couples who are expecting a child (at least one couple should be expecting their *first* child) to talk about changes. Ask them to tell about changes they've noticed in their relationship as they prepare for parenthood or as they became parents.

Have students take notes about the changes they notice:

### Other Family Members...

The birth of a healthy child to a happy couple is a joyous occasion for the family and friends of the new parents. Special ceremonies and rituals may be observed to celebrate the birth that bring the family together. Ask students to think back and imagine how their arrival influenced relationships in their family.

Discuss some of these relationships and the changes that took place:

### Friends...

The birth of a child, especially the first one, may have a dramatic effect on a couple relationship with friends and time they had formerly spent socializing.

Discuss:

How do you see the birth of a child affecting relationships with friends?

# "Parenthood and Work"

Work schedules have to be considered when pregnancy and childbirth occur. Work in small groups of 4-6 to plan the daily schedule assuming you have a new born infant. Choose from the following scenerios and record each group's plan in the space to the right. Also think of at least two additional situations that are not recorded below.

1. Mother is home full-time, father works full-time.

2. Mother will resume full-time work as a \_\_\_\_\_ when baby is 6 weeks old, father is a student at the university and works part-time.

3. Mother (or father) is single and must support the child alone.

4. Parents will help with occasional babysitting.

5. Mother will work part-time, father has work with an office in the home.

6.

7.

## Journal Entry #3



*What scheduling options would I be willing to consider as a parent?*