

---

---

## LESSON E

### Practical Reasoning and Parenthood

**FOCUS:** Solve a parenthood problem using practical reasoning.

**ACTIVITIES:**

1. Students will solve a parenting readiness problem by going through the practical reasoning process. Use Student Handout, "Practical Reasoning." Below is a brief example of how to use practical reasoning to solve a problem. Encourage the students to indicate all their circumstances that affect this problem and to brainstorm as many alternatives as possible. In addition, have the students state what consequences each alternative has for their family and other relationships.

**Example:**

1. Parenting Readiness Problem: Lack of patience at home with younger siblings.

2. Reasoning Process:

Goals: To improve ability to be patient

Circumstances: Have to share a room with two younger siblings

Siblings always getting into personal items.

It is good to have them admire teen

Both parents work

**Alternatives:**

Ignore them

Lock up personal items

Count to 10

Stop seeing them as an inconvenience

**Consequences:**

Strains relationship

Inconvenient

When you remember it works

They might continue

Evaluate alternatives: You realize that you were probably that way when you were that age.

Decision: You decide to try and see them differently and put a lock on personal items.

3. Act: You talk with your siblings and ask them to respect your things as you respect theirs.
4. Evaluate: After a couple of weeks you notice that you haven't been impatient with your siblings and they have kept out of your things.

# Practical Reasoning!

1. Identify a parenthood problem.

2. Reason:

- What are your goals and valued ends?
- What are your circumstances?
- What are some alternatives to consider and what are the consequences for you and others?
- Evaluate your alternatives.
- Make decision.

3. Act—carry out your decision.

4. Evaluate.

Decide if your decision needs to be changed.

