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:                                                                 Consequences:

Ignore them                                                                 Strains relationship

Lock up personal items                                                           Inconvenient

Count to 10                                                                    When you remember it works

Stop seeing them as an inconvenience                                             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?

3. Act—carry out your decision.

4. Evaluate.
   Decide if your decision needs to be changed.

Moving Out!