
LESSON B

Examining Role Expectations

FOCUS: Role expectations are behaviors expected in certain positions of responsibility. From watching those around us and through our own life experiences, we develop expectations of a variety of life roles. It is easier to manage when roles are clear and people living together have similar expectations.

ACTIVITIES:

1. Show pictures of people in various roles (teen, baby, grandparent, mother, fiancée, father, football coach, best friend, wage earner, roommate) or refer back to the list of roles students brainstormed earlier, then, list expectations of each of the roles. Use Student Handout, "Examining Expectations."
2. Illustrate different expectations for family roles. Role play a variety of expectations for each family role. Have students play adult roles. (father, mother, wage earner, homemaker). Use Student Handout, "Role Expectations."
3. Some role expectations are gender issues—that is behavior is a set of expectations related to sex. Display a **needle or pin** and a **nail**. List all the activities associated with each item. Note how gender expectations influence thinking. Discuss other examples of how behavior is expected of males and females. Use Student Handout, "Gender Expectations."
NEEDLE: sewing a hem, picking out slivers, sewing a button, marking a hem
NAIL: joining lumber, plug a tube of caulk, use for a hook for tools, an earring, fingernail cleaner
4. Use Transparency Master, "Changing Homemaker Role" to show how the homemaker role has changed. Discuss with students how other roles change both within society and for individuals in different circumstances. For example, the parent role changes with divorce occurs in a family, work roles are different today, especially for women, etc. Use Student Handout, "Expectations May Change."
5. Have a discussion about roles students expect to play and roles they expect others to play when they live on their own. For example, who will be housecleaner, cook, laundry person? Who will maintain and wash the car, mow laws, buy groceries? Use Student Handout, "My Role Expectations."

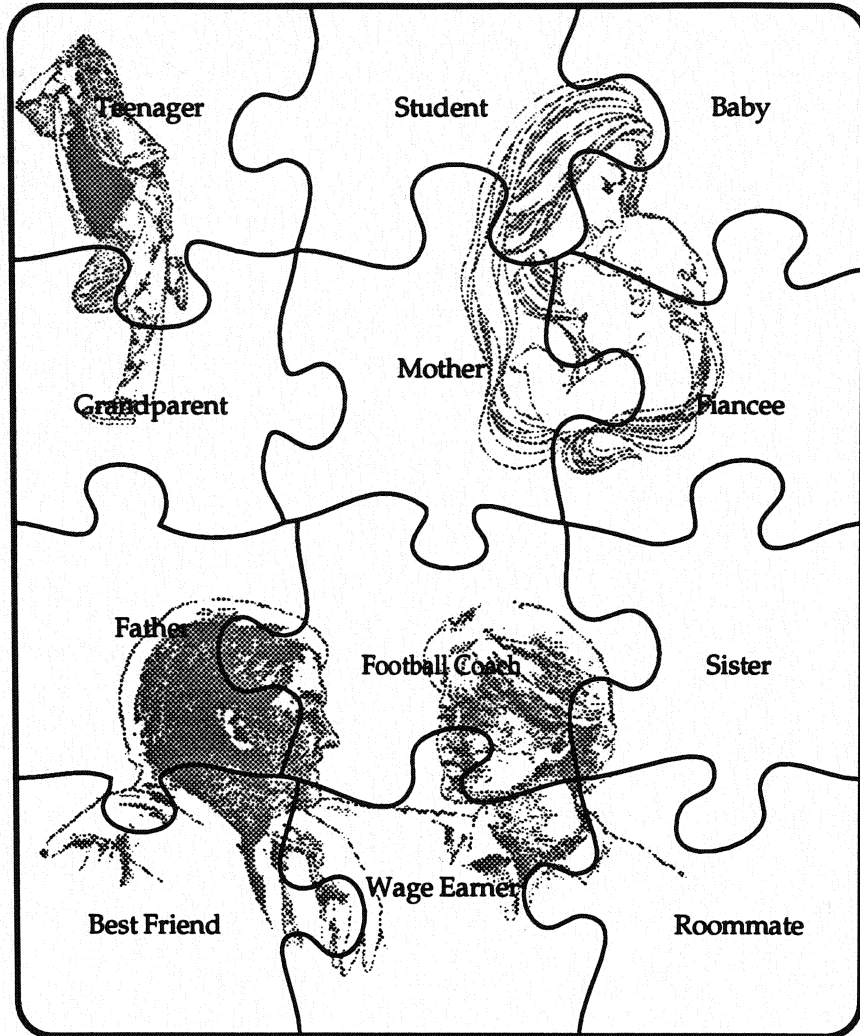
Journal Entry #1



What would some of my unrealistic expectations be?

Examining Expectations

From watching those around us and through our own life experiences, we develop expectations of ourselves and others. Role expectations also develop in certain positions of responsibility. Discuss expectations of each of the following roles.



"Role Expectations"

Each of us has different role expectations for those we live around, including mother, father, wage earner, homemaker, roommate, etc. Following are sets of roles. With a partner, roleplay your expectations of both and then reverse roles. Include characteristics of both in the spaces below.

Wage earner _____ Homemaker

Father _____ Mother

Single parent _____ 17 year old son or daughter

Roommate #1 _____ Roommate #2

Journal Entry #2



What is hardest for me to accept about the variety of roles I may assume as I begin to live on my own?

"Gender Expectations"

Some role expectations are gender-related—that is, behavior is a set of expectations related to sex. List some activities associated with the items below.





Discuss:

What other examples can you think of how behavior is influenced by being male or female?

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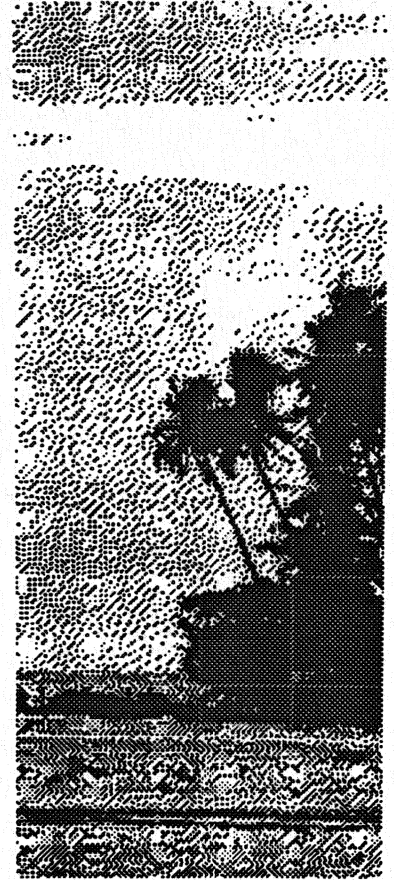
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Expectations May Change

Expectations about roles change both within society and for individuals in different circumstances. They're like the tide coming in on the beach—constant, something is there, but there is an ebb and flow to it.

Identify familiar social changes about roles you have noticed in the past several years.

Identify changes in your individual life you can expect.





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SOURCE: Life, 26 June 1950, p. 23

My Role Expectations

Families, and roommates, for that matter, manage better when roles are clear and expectations are similar or understood. Answer and discuss the following questions:

1. What roles do you expect to play?

2. What roles do you expect others to play?
