

Skills for Living

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Topic 7-2

Deciding About Parenting

- In this topic, you will learn about the demands and rewards of raising a child, as well as
 - ❖ **The goal of parenting**
 - ❖ **The challenges of parenting**
 - ❖ **Youth parenting**
 - ❖ **Deciding whether to have children**

Deciding About Parenting

Objectives for Topic 7-2

After studying this topic, you will be able to

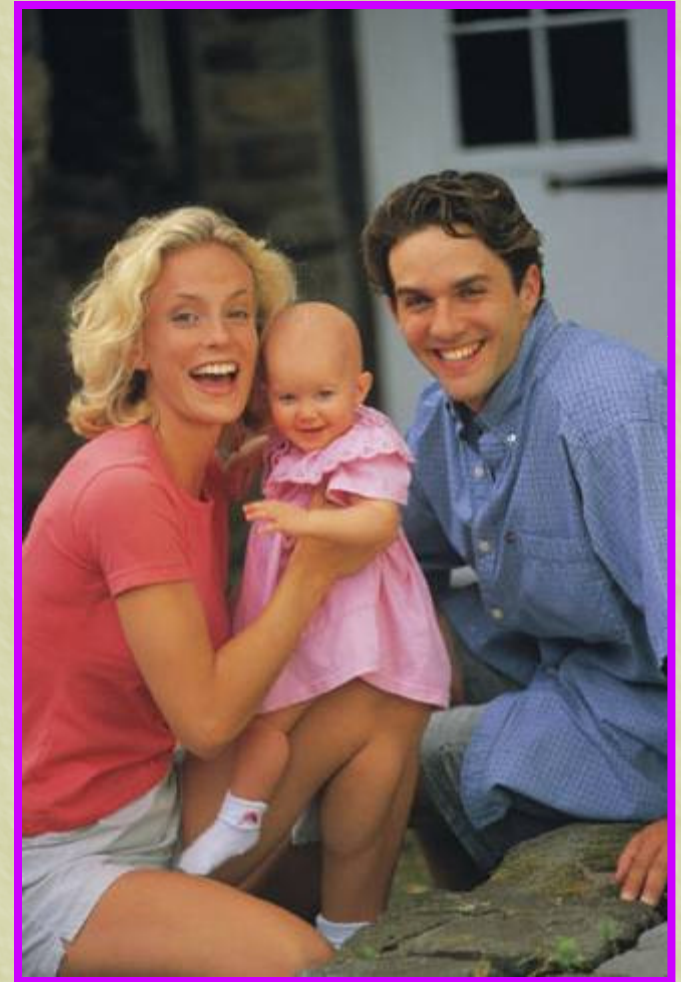
- state the goal of parenthood
- describe the challenges of parenthood
- recognize the challenges faced in youth parenting
- analyze the factors that affect parenthood decisions

Topic 7-2 Terms

❖ parenting

The Goal of Parenting

- *Parenting* is the process of raising a child
- The goal of parenting is to help children
 - ❖ grow and become mature and independent
 - ❖ learn to make decisions
 - ❖ assume responsibility

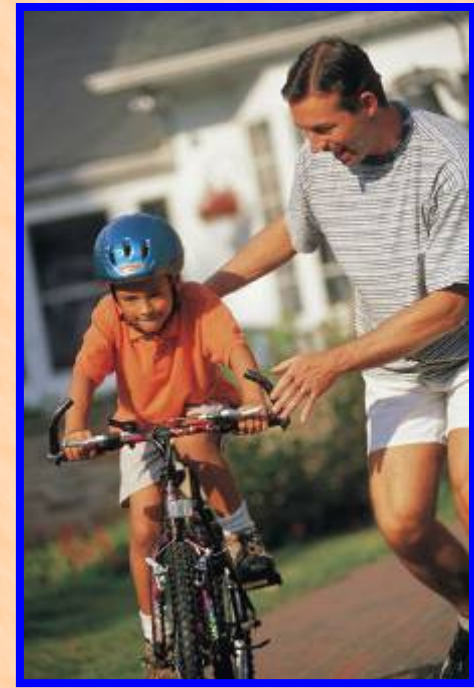


Helping Children Grow Up Responsibly

- Teaching them personal priorities and standards
- Allowing them to learn through new experiences
- Helping them interact with other people

The Challenges of Parenting

- Parenting involves a major commitment of
 - ❖ love
 - ❖ time
 - ❖ energy
 - ❖ patience
 - ❖ money



An Expression of Love

- A child is a way for the couple to fulfill their love
- The child also needs love and acceptance



Commitment of Time and Energy

- Caring for babies involves many tasks
 - ❖ feeding
 - ❖ bathing
 - ❖ dressing
 - ❖ comforting
- Couples should have a realistic view of parenthood

Requires Patience



- Children ask many questions
- Children may not realize their actions cause parents work
- Patience from parents helps children feel comfortable interacting with them

Financial Commitment

- Parents should consider the cost of a child's needs throughout his or her life

- ❖ clothing

- ❖ furniture

- ❖ toys

- ❖ housing

- ❖ food

- ❖ transportation

- ❖ medical care

- ❖ recreation

- ❖ education

Youth Parenting



- Most teens are not prepared to face the challenges of parenting
 - ❖ physical risks
 - ❖ emotional challenges
 - ❖ social challenges
 - ❖ financial challenges
 - ❖ educational and career challenges

Physical Risks

- Lack of medical care
- Poor nutrition
- Pregnancy-related illnesses
- Premature, low-birthweight babies
- Higher infant death rate

Emotional Challenges

- Additional responsibilities lead to pressure
- Stress of assuming adult roles
- Conflicting parent-child roles

Social Challenges

- Less likely to experience social life
- Friends have more freedom and fewer responsibilities
- Limited opportunities lead to frustration and anger

Financial Challenges

- Lack of skills and training needed to get better jobs
- Lack of financial support from some teen fathers
 - ❖ Teen fathers who pay child support may have to drop out of school to earn money
- High cost of child care

Education and Career

- Teen parents are likely to drop out of school
- Lack of diploma leads to lower-paying jobs
- They are unable to get higher education
- Lifetime earning potential is limited



The Children of Youth Parents

- The children of youth parents are subject to more risks than children born to older parents

- ❖ health risks

- ❖ economic insecurity

- ❖ academic risks

- ❖ child care quality

- ❖ emotional risks

- ❖ neglect and abuse

- ❖ social risks

Did You Know...

- Every year, almost 1 million U.S. teenagers become pregnant, or 10% of women aged 15-19
- 83% of teen mothers come from poor or low-income families
- Seven in 10 teen mothers graduate from high school, but are less likely to go on to college

Source: The Alan Guttmacher Institute

Deciding Whether to Have Children



- Should be a joint decision
- Personal feelings must be discussed
- Clear understanding of partner's goals is necessary

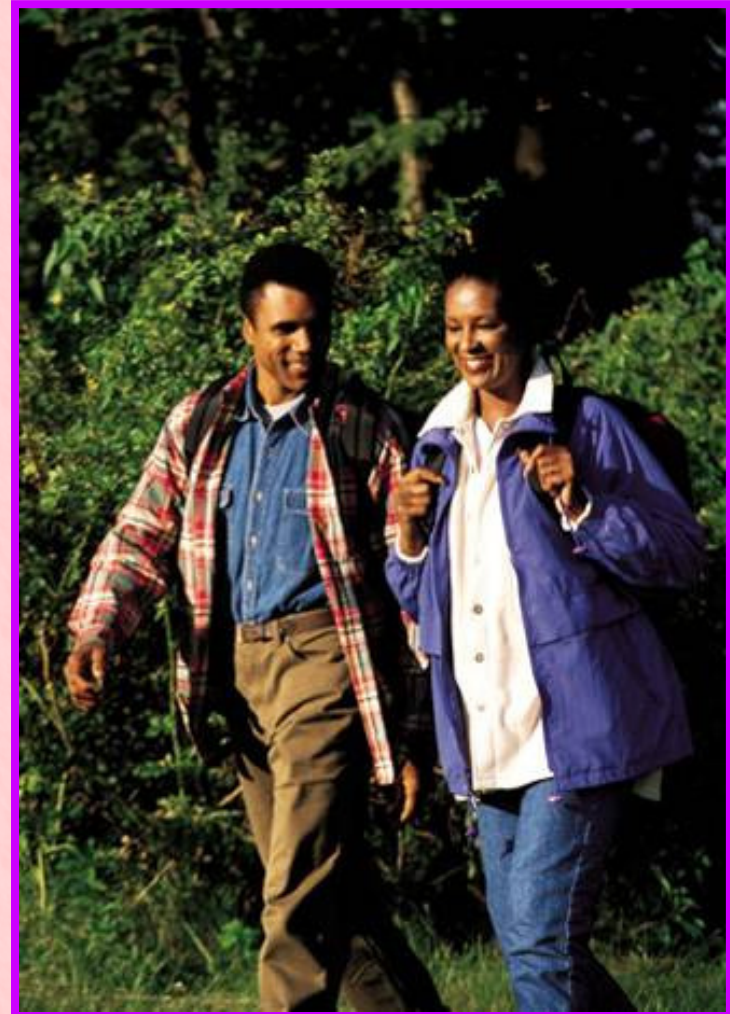
Reasons for Having Children

- To express love
- To have a family
- To enrich life
- To fulfill role expectations



Reasons for Not Having Children

- Personal freedom
- Career concerns
- Medical problems
- Financial concerns
- Fears



Other Factors Affecting Parenthood Decisions

- Short- and long-term goals
- Strength of the couple's relationship
- Readiness for children

Summary for Topic 7-2

- Examining attitudes toward parenthood is important
- Parenting involves many goals and challenges
- Teen parents face additional challenges
- Many factors affect a couple's decision regarding whether or not to have children