

COURSE:7065	Parenting and Child Development	UNIT: A	Parenting Perspectives	
ESSENTIAL STANDARD:	1.00	B2	16%	Understand the parenthood decision.
OBJECTIVE:	1.01	B2	10%	Understand readiness characteristics and factors that should be considered before becoming a parent.
<b>ESSENTIAL QUESTION:</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In what ways should a person be ready before becoming a parent?</li> </ul>				
<b>UNPACKED CONTENT</b>				
<p><b>Readiness Characteristics for Parenting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meeting the needs of another human being</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Levels of human needs---Maslow’s Hierarchy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Physical</li> <li>◦ Safety and security</li> <li>◦ Love and acceptance</li> <li>◦ Esteem</li> <li>◦ Self-actualization</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Implications of Maslow’s Hierarchy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Every person has needs</li> <li>◦ Needs of one level must be at least partially met before one can be aware of higher needs</li> <li>◦ Successful parenting is affected by how well a child’s needs have been met</li> <li>◦ Development of a child is affected by how well the child’s needs are met</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Responsibilities of those who parent/care for children</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Basic responsibilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Nurturing</li> <li>◦ Protecting</li> <li>◦ Teaching</li> <li>◦ Guiding</li> <li>◦ Fulfilling legal responsibilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Food, clothing, and shelter</li> <li>- Medical care</li> <li>- Education</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Responsibilities in special circumstances <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Children placed in foster care or adoptive homes</li> <li>◦ Termination of parental rights</li> <li>◦ Providing financial child support</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>				

OBJECTIVE:	1.01	B2	10%	Understand readiness characteristics and factors that should be considered before becoming a parent.
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**UNPACKED CONTENT**

**• Potential rewards and challenges of parenting**

- Rewards
  - Youthful perspective
  - Emotional fulfillment
  - Personal growth
  - Family continuation
- Challenges
  - New responsibilities
  - Lifestyle changes
  - Emotional adjustments
  - Changes in relationships
  - Employment

**Readiness Factors to Consider before Becoming a Parent**

**• Demonstrate signs of readiness for parenting**

- Emotional maturity
- Secure family environment and healthy relationships
- Desire for parenthood
- Health considerations
- Financial and management skills

**• Differentiate positive from negative reasons for becoming or not becoming a parent**

- Positive and negative reasons to become a parent
- Positive and negative reasons not to become a parent

**• Understand stages/variations of the family life cycle and types of family structures**

- Stages of the family life cycle
  - Beginning family---newlyweds
  - Child-bearing family---expanding
  - Parenting family---developing
  - Launching family---middle age
  - Mid-years family---pre-retirement 55-64
  - Aging family---retirement 65 and over
- Variations of the family life cycle occur in many forms:
  - Individuals choose not to marry
  - Individuals whose spouses die or leave
  - Couples choose not to, or find they are unable, to have children
  - Families skip, overlap, or repeat stages, which creates new sequences
  - Families have additional children several years after first group of children
  - Families decide to adopt after their children are in the launching stage
  - Families are involved in second marriages; two families blend and stages are repeated
  - Families create extended families by bringing aging relatives into their home

OBJECTIVE:	1.01	B2	10%	Understand readiness characteristics and factors that should be considered before becoming a parent.
<b>UNPACKED CONTENT</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Family structures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Nuclear <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Advantages---two parents support one another and raise the children, possibly two incomes</li> <li>- Disadvantages---none</li> </ul> </li> <li>◦ Extended <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Advantages---may be extra babysitters, gain knowledge from elders, division of labor</li> <li>- Disadvantages---additional authority figures, more crowded, physical care of elderly</li> </ul> </li> <li>◦ Single-parent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Advantages---only one authority figure, less parental conflict</li> <li>- Disadvantages---demanding, no one to share responsibilities with, stressful, possible lower income, no second gender role model, possibly fewer hours with children</li> </ul> </li> <li>◦ Blended <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Advantages---“instant” family, opportunity to be around children</li> <li>- Disadvantages---challenge of adjusting to others’ presence and needs, have to share parents and family resources, conflicting expectations of parents and extended families</li> </ul> </li> <li>◦ Adoptive Extended <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Advantages---solution for couples who cannot have children</li> <li>- Disadvantages---children may feel rejected by biological parents, short transition period to parenthood</li> </ul> </li> <li>◦ Foster <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Advantages--- temporary care, emotional issues</li> <li>- Disadvantages--- children may have emotional and legal issues from their birth families, instability in placements so frequent adjustments required, competition with biological children and other foster children</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>				