

Lesson Plan: “Walking in My Shoes”

Lesson skill set: Decision Making/ Empathy

Target Grades: 8th -12th

Time period: 1 class period

Key Learning:

Student Expectation (SE)

- To identify the health “impact” that adoption has on society and families, and how specifically it can benefit individuals, family units, and society as a whole in positive ways.
- Understand the process of adoption.
- Apply critical thinking skills.
- Analyze the decision making process.
- Evaluate influencing factors.

TEKS Used:

Walking in My Shoes: **Health TEKS** 5abd, 7l, 9ab, 11b, 15b, 16abd, 17b; **Principles of Human Services TEKS** 2a, 3abe, 4abd; **Dollars and Sense TEKS** 2a; **Interpersonal Studies TEKS** 1abc, 2abc, 3ab, 4b,7bdg, 9abcd, 10cd, **Lifetime Nutrition and Wellness TEKS** 7b, **Child Development TEKS** 1ab, 3c, **Child Guidance TEKS** 1acfh; **Family and Consumer Sciences TEKS** 1bc,5bc; **Practicum in Human Services TEKS:** 1aef

Unit Focus:

Discuss teen pregnancy and complications that arise due to teen pregnancy/ parenting. Analyze and discuss why many do not graduate high school when parenting as a teen. What is adoption? What do teens know about adoptions and what are misconceptions about the adoption option? What does adoption look like today? Is adoption a loving and healthy option for families? Is it a viable option for pregnant teens? How can the decision to place a child for adoption benefit one’s health? How can someone show empathy to another person facing a difficult circumstance?

Concept(s):

- Goal setting and decision making
- Challenge students to analyze and assess influencing factors that could lead one to place for adoption or to become an adoptive family.
- Students will determine positive and negative family influences and support systems.

Materials provided by Gladney:

Pre and posttest evaluations, Video, Power point, famous adoption cards

Vocabulary and Terminology:

Open Adoption, Semi-open Adoption, Confidential Adoption, Make an Adoption Plan, Birth Mother, Adoptive Parent, Family Options, Post Adoption Reunions, Empathy, Critical Thinking, Informed Choice, Goal Setting, Obstacle.

Lesson: “Walking in my Shoes”

Hook/ prequel to lesson:

Statistics and Famous Adoptions

ASK:

- What are options that a teen has when they find out they are pregnant?

ASK:

- What do all these people have in common?
- A Power Point slide show will correspond.
- Cards are included for “AdoptED to Go” to discuss the famous adoptees, famous adoptive parents, and famous birth parents. Each card includes a story of the famous adoption story.

Instruction:

Give an overview of adoption today and will tell how birth parents have choices.

Teach briefly about the adoption process.

Activity – Walk In My Shoes Timelines

Angie is 15 and pregnant – How do you think she feels?

Jose is a sophomore and just found out his girlfriend Angie is pregnant. – How do you think he feels?

Janie and Tim just found out that they cannot have children – How do you think they feel?

Show animation video- Part 1

Question: What would it be like to walk in their shoes?

Students will break into four groups and create a time line based on the choices Angie and Jose could make.

Students should write what (Angie and Jose’s) life might look like at each age on the timeline. Explain to the students there is no right or wrong answers, but based on decisions that are made life can take different turns. Have the students demonstrate the different turns life might take if Angie and Jose choose to parent or if they choose to make an adoption plan.

Group Presentations

Have the students share about the decision Angie and Jose have made, and ask if they believe this was the right choice for this couple.

Show animation video- Part 2

ASK:

- What was it like complete the timeline for Angie and Jose?
- How were your choices in the “Walk in My Shoes” activity the *same / different as* the choices shown on the video?
- What did you learn about adoption?