

## Four Corners of Teen Parenting Activity

Objective: Students will explain human reproduction, identify the potential outcomes of engaging in sexual behaviors, discuss the consequences associated with teen pregnancy, and examine the lifelong responsibilities and requirements of parenthood.

Common Core Tie-In:

- Introduction to Social Health: Course Standard #7
- Introduction to Human Studies: Course Standard #15
- Lifespan Development: Course Standards #12 a/c/d/
- Lifetime Wellness (9-12): Course Standards #6.4, 6.6, 6.8, 6.12, 6.13
- Health Education (6-8): Course Standards #7.1, 7.2, 7.3

Supplies Needed:

- Butcher paper or newsprint (4 pieces)
- Markers (4)
- Tape

Directions:

For this activity, you will split your class into four groups. Each group will designate a writer and each group will get their own color of marker. Write the follow headings on four different pieces of butcher paper or newsprint: Future, Social, Emotional, Financial. Then, hang one newsprint in each corner.

Example:

Future	Social	Emotional	Financial
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**Say:** *Your groups will be taking a few minutes at each corner of the classroom to write down your ideas of how becoming a teen parent would affect that aspect of the teen mom and dad's and the baby's life. For future, write how being a teen parent will affect the future of the teen, or the future of their baby. How will they have a harder time achieving in the future? For social, write the social things teen parents might have to miss out on because they have a baby. For emotional, write down some of the emotional stressors a teen parent might have to deal with. And for financial, write how it will effect a teen parent financially and what sort of things they have to buy that they never would have had to buy if they hadn't become a parent.*

Assign each group a corner to start with and give them 1 minute to write ideas on their corner's newsprint. Then have them all move one corner clockwise and give them 1 minute to add new ideas to that newsprint. Do this until everyone has had a few minutes at each corner.

You can read the newsprints yourself out loud or you can allow the group that started at that corner to present their newsprint.

Make sure the following are included or discussed for each category:

Financial:

Teen parents are more likely to live in poverty, no money for college, no money for car, might have to find a place to live, dealing with child support and court costs. Have to pay for formula, diapers, daycare, crib, baby clothes, medicine, doctors, insurance, etc.

Social:

Teen parents might have to miss homecoming, prom, dates, parties, football games, playing sports, hanging out with friends, going on trips, etc.

Future:

Children of teen parents are more likely to be teen parents, children of teen parents are more likely to end up in jail, children of teen parents do not do as well in school. Teen parents will struggle to finish high school, and to go to college, etc.

Emotional:

Custody battles, baby mama or baby daddy drama, fighting with parents, loss of friends, rumors and bad reputation, missing out on teen years, etc.

\*NOTE\* If you find your students have trouble coming up with ideas, you can write some leading questions at the top of each paper. For financial you could write, "What would teen parents have to spend money on? What could regular teens afford that teen parents could not? What extra costs would the family of teen parents see?" For social you could write, "What might teen parents miss out on socially? How might a teen parent's Friday night or Saturday look different than an average teen?" For future you could write, "How would being a teen parent affect the teen's future? How would being a teen parent affect the baby's future?" For emotional you could write, "What emotional toll would being a teen parent take on a teen's relationships? On their family's relationships? On their reputation?"

Please note that it is not unusual for students to list positive statements about teen parenting, particularly under the "Emotional" category. This is perfectly acceptable. Many teen parents are excited about their baby. However, if this comes up, this is an opportunity for you to say, "Not all the feelings surrounding teen pregnancy are negative. Most teen parents are excited about the birth of their child. This is completely normal. However, having a child as a teen creates not only the responsibilities of a teenager but also the responsibilities of being a parent, which can be really stressful."