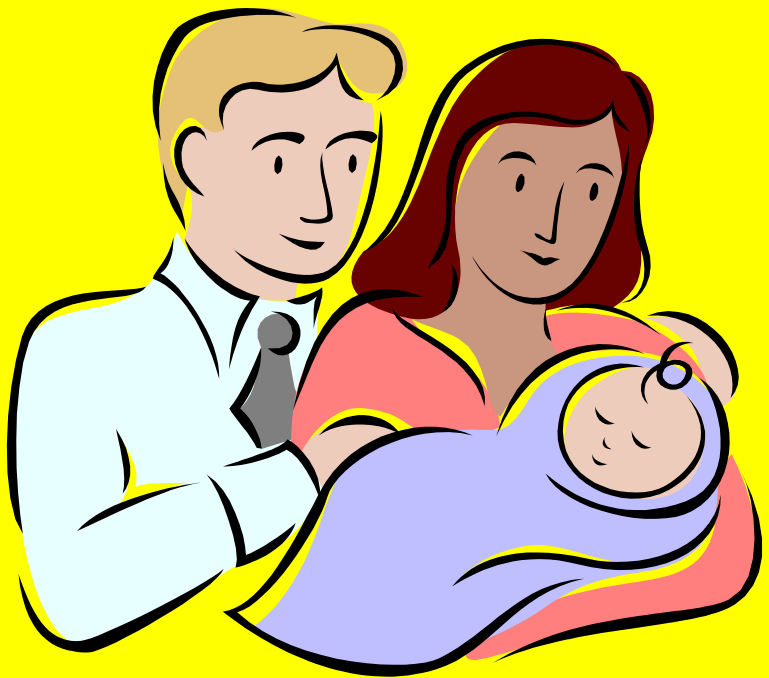


**P
a
r
e
n
t
i
n
g**

**R
e
a
d
i
n
g
s**



Parenting Readiness Test

Take this simple test to determine whether or not you are ready to have children...

- **THE MESS TEST:**

- Smear peanut butter on the sofa and curtains. Now rub your hands in the wet flower bed and rub on the walls. Cover the stains with crayons. Place a fish stick behind the couch and leave it there all summer.

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bPNyK7XTy6o>

- **THE TOY TEST:**

- Obtain a 55-gallon box of Legos. (If Legos are not available, you may substitute roofing tacks or broken bottles.) Have a friend spread them all over the house. Put on a blindfold. Try to walk to the bathroom or kitchen. Do not scream. (This could wake a sleeping child.)

- **THE GROCERY STORE TEST:**

- Borrow one or two small animals (goats are best) and take them with you as you shop at the grocery store. Always keep them in sight and pay for anything they eat or damage.

- **THE DRESSING TEST:**

- Obtain one large, unhappy, live octopus. Stuff into a small net bag, making sure that all arms stay inside.

- **THE FEEDING TEST:**

- Obtain a large plastic milk jug. Fill halfway with water. Suspend from the ceiling with a stout cord. Start the jug swinging. Try to insert spoonfuls of soggy cereal (such as Fruit Loops or Cheerios) into the mouth of the jug, while pretending to be an airplane. When finished, dump the contents of the jug on the floor and over your clothes.

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XLQ7edKRuE0>

- **THE NIGHT TEST:**

- Obtain a small cloth bag and fill it with 8-12 pounds of sand. Soak it thoroughly in water. At 8 PM begin to waltz and hum with the bag until 9 PM. Lay down your bag and set your alarm for 10pm. Get up, pick up your bag, and sing every song you have ever heard. Make up about a dozen more and sing these until 4 am. Set alarm for 5 am. Get up and make breakfast. Keep this up for 5 years.

- **INGENUITY TEST**

- Take an egg carton. Using a pair of scissors and pot of paint, turn it into an alligator. Now take a toilet paper tube and turn it into an attractive Christmas candle. Use only scotch tape and a piece of foil. Last, take a milk carton, a ping-pong ball, and an empty box of Cocoa Puffs. Make a replica of the Eiffel Tower.

- **AUTOMOBILE TEST**

- Forget the BMW and buy a station wagon. Buy a chocolate ice cream cone and put it in the glove compartment. Leave it there. Get a dime. Stick it into the cassette player. Take a family size package of chocolate chip cookies. Mash them into the back seat. Run a garden rake along both sides of the car.

- **THE PHYSICAL TEST (WOMEN):**

- Obtain a large beanbag chair and attach it to your front under your clothes. Leave it there for 9 months. Now remove 10 of the beans. And try not to notice your closet full of clothes. You won't be wearing them for a while.

- **THE PHYSICAL TEST (MEN):**

- Go to the nearest drugstore. Set your wallet on the counter. Ask the clerk to help himself. Now proceed to the nearest food store. Go to the head office and arrange for your paycheck to be directly deposited to the store. Purchase a newspaper. Go home and read it quietly for the last time.

- **THE FINAL ASSIGNMENT:**

- Find a couple who already has a small child. Lecture them on how they can improve their discipline, patience, tolerance, toilet training, and child's table manners. Suggest many ways they can improve. Emphasize to them that they should never allow their children to run rampant. Enjoy this experience. It will be the last time you have all the answers.

Personal Readiness Quiz

(Agree or Disagree)

1. I don't care much about my free time.
2. I get frustrated easily when things don't go my way.
3. Sleeping late is not very important to me.
4. Routines are boring.
5. I have a lot of confidence in myself.
6. I wouldn't mind spending \$400 a month on someone else for the next 18 years.
7. I would want my child to be just like me.

Personal Readiness Quiz

Continued

8. I still have years to go before I am fully mature.
9. I enjoy sharing my possessions with others.
10. I like going out and doing things when I feel like it.
11. I sometimes have trouble controlling my temper.
12. Children get on my nerves.
13. I feel unprepared to take care of a newborn baby.

Personal Readiness Quiz

Continued

14. I feel unprepared to take care of a 6-year-old.
15. I feel unprepared to take care of a 12-year-old.
16. I need someone to love me before I can love myself.
17. I find it easy to be flexible and compromise.
18. I am a good communicator, listener, and problem-solver.
19. Household chores are a drag.

How do you know when you are ready to have children?



- Marriage Readiness
- Financial Readiness
- Emotional Readiness
- Social Readiness
- Intellectual Readiness
- Physical Readiness

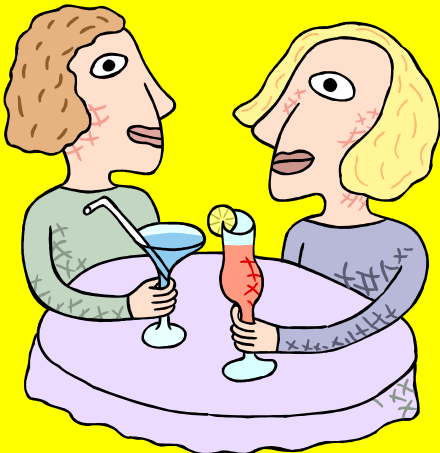
1. Marriage

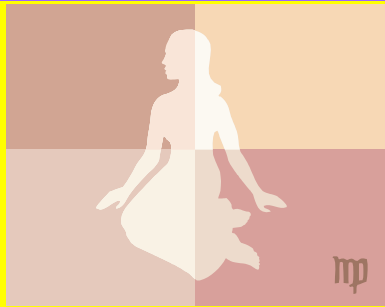
- Your marriage needs to get to the goal-directed stage.
- The first year of marriage is for adjusting to the marriage and to build patterns. It is best to not add pregnancy to this.
- Stability.
 - Having children strengthens stable marriages.
 - Having a baby makes a weak relationship weaker.



2. Socially

- Your social life will change.
- Your child needs to be with you at all times or pay for child care.
- You will not have as much free time.





**23 – 30 years old
is the prime time
for mothers to
be pregnant.**

**Have Good
Health**



Exercise



**Eat
nutritiously**

No alcohol,



tobacco,

or drugs.

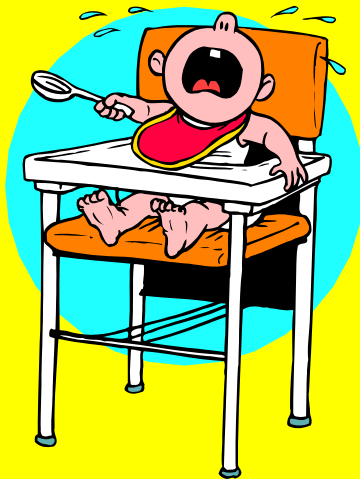
4. Intellectually

- Understand the responsibilities and commitments of parenthood.
- Know the principles of child guidance.
- Understand child development.
- It is a lifelong commitment.



5. Emotionally

- You will need to be flexible with your time.
- You will need to be able to function with interrupted sleep patterns.
- You will need to be patient.
- You will need to share your money, resources and time with your child.
- You'll need to be able to deal with the frustrations of a crying child.

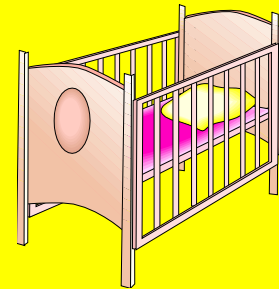
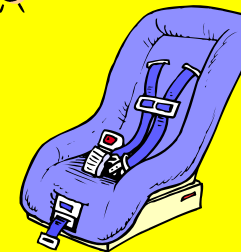
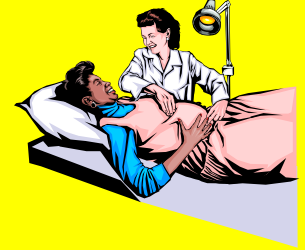


6. Financially



“If you have money problems, you have marriage problems!”

- Financially stable
- Initial expenses
 - Doctor
 - Hospital
 - Baby Food
 - Diapers
 - Car Seat
 - Furniture



- To raise a child to the age of eighteen, it will cost as much as **\$150,000.**

Why do people have babies?

- Family Pressure
- Peer Pressure
- Trapping a Partner
- Bring a Couple Closer Together
- For Someone to Love
- For Companionship During Old Age
- Your Religion Encourages It
- You Love Children
- You Want to Be a Good Parent

Video clips 😊

- <http://www.schooltube.com/video/5d3960b7bf53442348ae/>
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N_NspDWssIY
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oEFXj00Gou4>