

WORKSHEET 2

The world has changed since your parents were young. They may view things very differently to you and you may find yourself disagreeing with much of what they say. What type of things cause disagreements between parents & children? It can be things such as:

- Music
- Clothes
- To wear/not to wear make-up
- What time to be home at
- Exam results
- Choice of career
- Boyfriends/girlfriends
- Dating
- Friends/associates

Can you think of any more? What things do you disagree with your parents about? Write them below.

WORKSHEET 3

Everyone needs somebody to confide in at times. For some, it's their parents. For others, it's a close friend or a teacher or minister. If you have a problem, your family can be a source of comfort and advice.

Who do you prefer to talk your problems over with? Who do you confide in when something is on your mind? Write your choice below in order of preference.

If I am worried or have a problem, I usually confide in:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

I chose _____ as my first choice
because _____

I chose _____ as my second choice
because _____

I chose _____ as my third choice
because _____

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

In this section we are going to introduce the idea of an autobiography to the group. We will do this by asking the students to write about their earliest memories.

The teacher could preface this by describing their own earliest memories. Give them a few moments to think or tell each other their memories before asking for volunteers to describe their memories to the rest of the class.

Now tell the group that they are going to write their autobiographies. Explain that an autobiography is a personal history and they must choose what to include.

Give out **WORKSHEET 4**. They must write a list of things to include in their autobiography and each point can be further explained. For example:

My earliest memory – my father bought me a kitten.

- Did it make you happy/sad/angry?
- How long ago was it?
- How old were you?
- Does this memory still affect you?

In preparation for this section, you can ask the students to bring in photos of their childhood, family, holidays etc. Ask them to work in pairs and describe the photos to their partner. Describe the places, events, names, feelings etc. This will no doubt give them more ideas for their list on **WORKSHEET 4**.

The table on **WORKSHEET 4** can form the basis for a long-term project. This will include careful preparation and will require students to think out and talk about ideas and organise information.

OTHER TYPES OF FAMILIES

Many children and young people come from broken families. They may have witnessed their parents separate or divorce. This always affects a young person greatly and could even lead to problems later on in life.

Some young people come from violent homes or they may have been the victim of some form of abuse. Such things can leave emotional scars that are carried into adulthood. This is a very delicate subject and you may need to broach it sensitively. It is, however, an issue that many young people are willing to discuss and it is worth asking the group for their views.

When two parents don't get on, they may forget to consider the impact this can have on their children and may even reason that a separation is the best option for all concerned. Some young people are forced to deal with the trauma of watching their parent's marriage break up.

In some cases, one or both parents re-marry which leads to step-parents, step-brother and sisters and sometimes half brothers and sisters. Make sure the group understands the difference between a step-brother and half-brother.

Give out **WORKSHEET 7** and tell the group that they must complete this for homework. They may find the information at the library or you can suggest they contact the Central Statistics Office. The Internet is also a huge resource but care must be taken when accessing certain websites.

Not all information found on the Internet is accurate or well-meaning – this issue is covered in the publication 'Media Literacy – Be a Discerning Researcher' published by STS Resources. Provide students with adequate tools regarding their research and by all means give them advice and point them in the right direction, but allow them to make their own decisions about where to go to find such information. Perhaps they can work in groups with a deadline of two weeks for completion.

Family life can be difficult. Everyone is different and trying to get along with all members of your family can be a challenge. This is even more of a challenge when there are major changes taking place. Discuss how teenagers can best cope with changes in their family situation.