Lesson 10: My Values

Values are all the things and ideas that are important to us.

Values greatly influence the decisions we make.

Some values are more important to us than others.

In fact, we may be willing to take great risks for those strong beliefs.

Values help us decide what is right or wrong. As we grow older and more experienced, our values sometimes change.

WHAT DO CHILDREN LIKE YOUR- SELF CARE ABOUT? The results of a recent survey surprised and impressed many people. Here are a few responses from the children.

Ricardo: "I care a lot about freedom. In my country, people can't say and write things that the government disagrees with".

Mary: "My music is the most important thing in my life."

Paul: "After our Scout Troop's environmental work, I value a pollution-free world."

Dan: "I value an education. We've always been poor and I want a good job."

Would not life be simple if all people had the same values? Because our values differ however, we may have conflicts. Sometimes we even have conflicts within ourselves. When our values clash, we may be forced to make a decision. Fortunately, if that decision does not work out, we have the power, as intelligent problem-solvers, to change it.

PUTTING IT TOGETHER

For each of the following, identify two conflicting values. Use the Value Chest for help.

1. You see a purse in the classroom. You have no money. No one else is around.

_____

2. Your friends are daring you to smoke. They are all watching you.

_____

3. You overhear a bully tell a classmate that he is going to beat him up after school.

_____

4. You want to invite a new student to your party. Your friends make fun of him and threaten not to come if he is invited. You suspect that they are prejudiced.

YOUR CHALLENGES!

1. What do you think are the most important values of your best friend? Why do you think so?

2. Discuss with classmates and with your teacher the questions:

(a) "Where do values come from?"

(b) "How can values change?"

As a peacemaker I learned