

Pathways Towards Success





What do you want
your life to look
like at age 30?

Are you **Sliding**...



or **Deciding?**

Why do people end up in relationships that don't work?



The “love chemicals”



ACTIVITY: Turn back the clock on a High-Cost Slide

1. How well did they know each other?
2. What was the slide?
3. What could they have done differently?

Now go back in time. What steps might have been taken, information gathered, and decisions made to have avoided the high-cost slide?



Share with Your Neighbor:

What's one area of your life—friendships, dating, school, or even social media—where you want to make more intentional decisions instead of just going with the flow?



Healthy Relationships & the Success Sequence



Some Common Relationship Slides



- Moving too fast physically or emotionally
- Ignoring warning signs or out of synch values
- Staying in an unhealthy relationship because of fear or attachment

Low-Risk Deciding Approach

Attraction	Learn More About Each Other...	Then Decide...	Agree to a Plan

Low-Risk Deciding Approach

Attraction	Learn More About Each Other...	Then Decide...	Agree to a Plan
Enjoy it! Have fun. Don't read too much into it yet.			
Remember the "love chemicals" surge 3-9 months			
Clearly communicate your desire to take things slowly, your boundaries on physical intimacy			

Low-Risk Deciding Approach

Attraction	Learn More About Each Other...	Then Decide...	Agree to a Plan
Enjoy it! Have fun. Don't read too much into it yet.	Common interests? Find each other interesting? Do you have fun? Values in sync?		
Remember the "love chemicals" surge 3-9 months	Enjoy each other's personality? Talk easily? Fight fairly? Do your differences work together?		
Clearly communicate your desire to take things slowly, your boundaries on physical intimacy	Detect any problem behaviors? Is person mature? Treat you well? Have you met each other's friends, family?		

Low-Risk Deciding Approach

Attraction	Learn More About Each Other...	Then Decide...	Agree to a Plan
Enjoy it! Have fun. Don't read too much into it yet.	Common interests? Find each other interesting? Do you have fun? Values in sync?	Do you want to be in a relationship? To be exclusive? Faithful?	Agree on expectations for relationship
Remember the "love chemicals" surge 3-9 months	Enjoy each other's personality? Talk easily? Fight fairly? Do your differences work together?	Are your feelings for each other mutual? And how do you know?	With clear rules to help you pace things slowly and enjoy your relationship without adding sex.
Clearly communicate your desire to take things slowly, your boundaries on physical intimacy	Detect any problem behaviors? Is person mature? Treat you well? Have you met each other's friends, family?	Where do you draw your line on physical intimacy? How do you want to pace the relationship?	If sexually involved, a plan to avoid pregnancy and/or STDs.
		When & under what conditions would you move your line?	Best to avoid a pregnancy until life is more settled with education, employment and a dedicated partner – married.

Expectations for Your Future



The Success Sequence: Their Story



Milestones

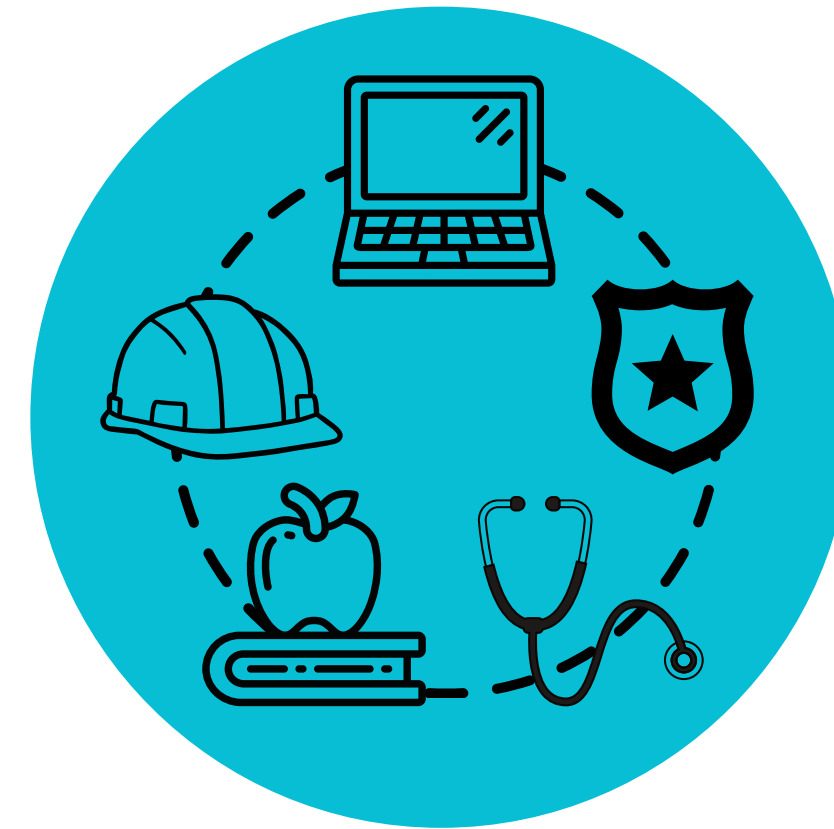
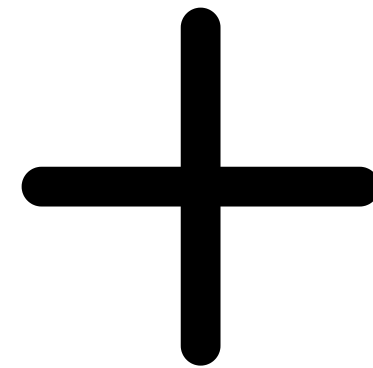


A certain number, combination, and sequence can matter

Key Essentials for Increasing Your Odds of Higher Income



Education/Training



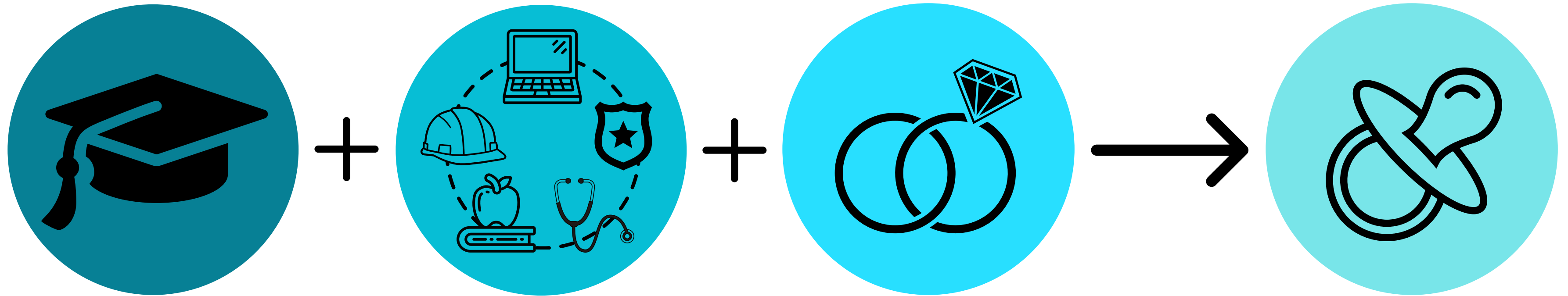
Full-time Employment



Adding to Income



When Children are Part of Your Vision



Marriage before baby

Advantage of Combination and Sequence

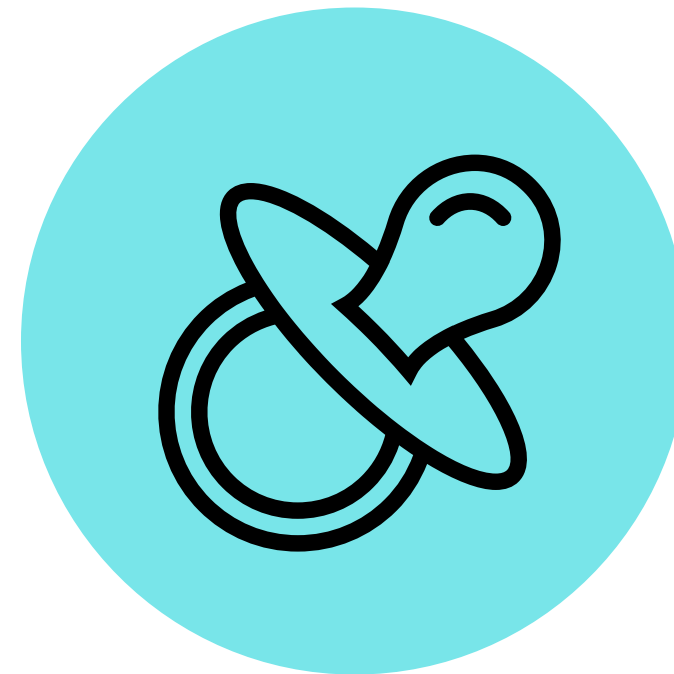
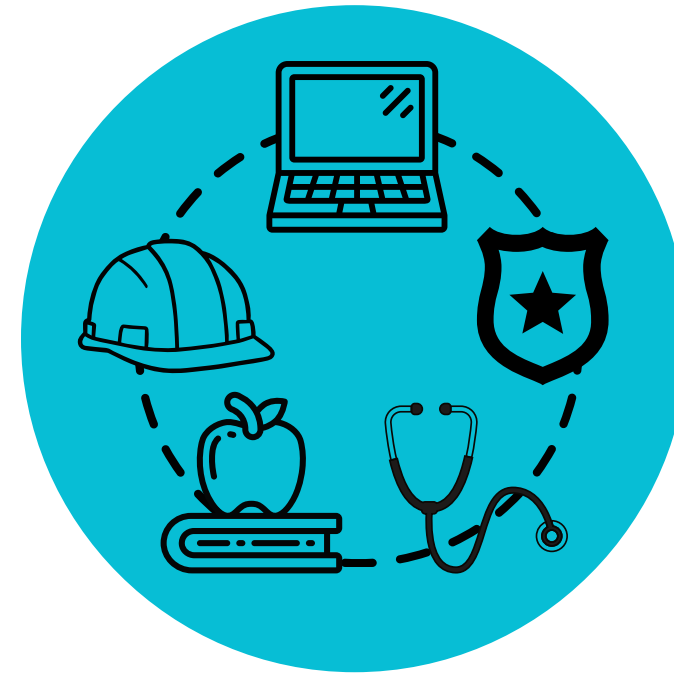
What were your
key takeaways
from today?



Family, Marriage & Moving Forward



Important Milestones

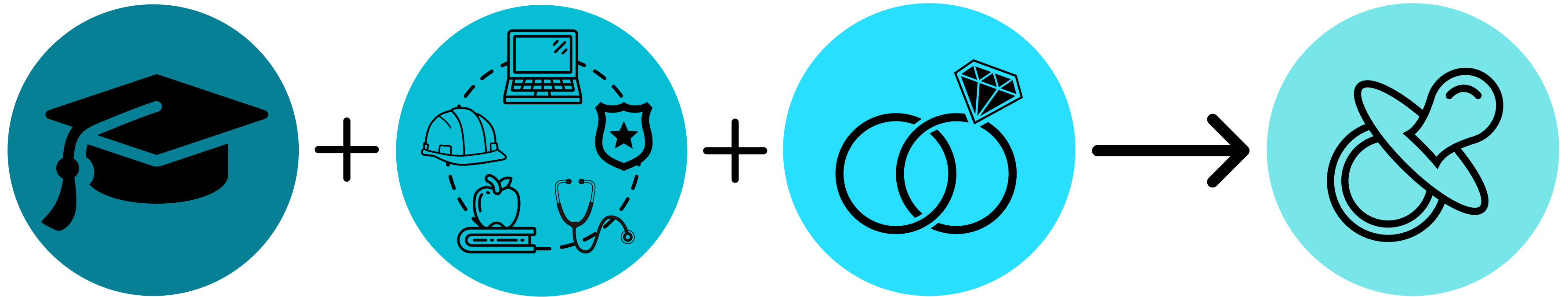


Child Wants & Needs at Different Stages of Life– Infant, Toddler, School-age, Teenager

- Basics/material needs
- What contributes to child's physical health?
- To a child's social & emotional health?
- What helps develop a child's self-esteem? Feel confident?
- What helps a child succeed in school?
- As a teenager what helps them stay out of trouble and on track? Build abilities?
- Parenting skills; discipline style?
- Education/finances/parents' relationship
- Anything else you can think of!



When Children are Part of Your Vision



Marriage before baby

Advantage of Combination and Sequence

Emotional and Social Benefits of a Healthy Relationship

- The time and energy of two to provide nurture and care
- Two to play, read to the child, discipline, help with schoolwork
- Less stress than if alone
- Feeling loved and supported by partner contributes to emotional health
- Married couples are more likely to receive support from both extended families



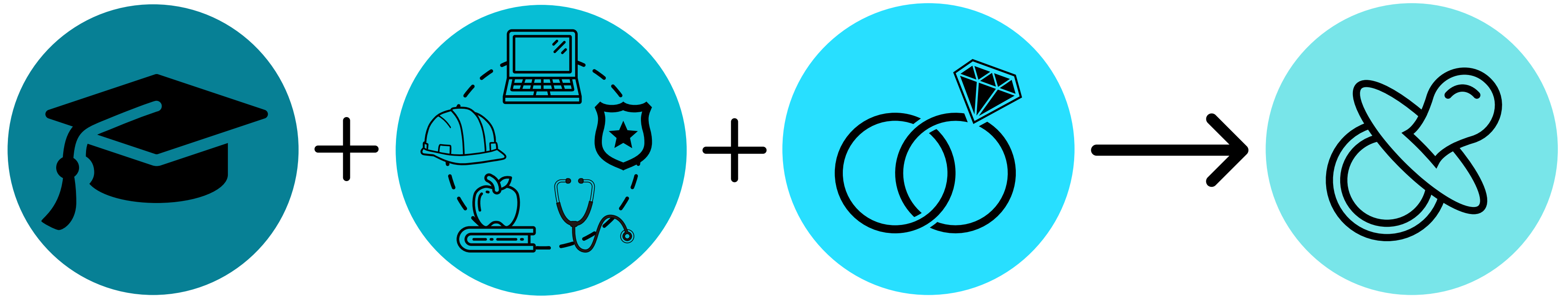
Children are affected by parents' relationships



Does when you marry matter?



When Children are Part of Your Vision



Marriage before baby

Advantage of Combination and Sequence

What do I do if I get off track?



What do I do if I get off track?

1. Focus on what's in your control.
2. Seek support.



Handling Roadblocks



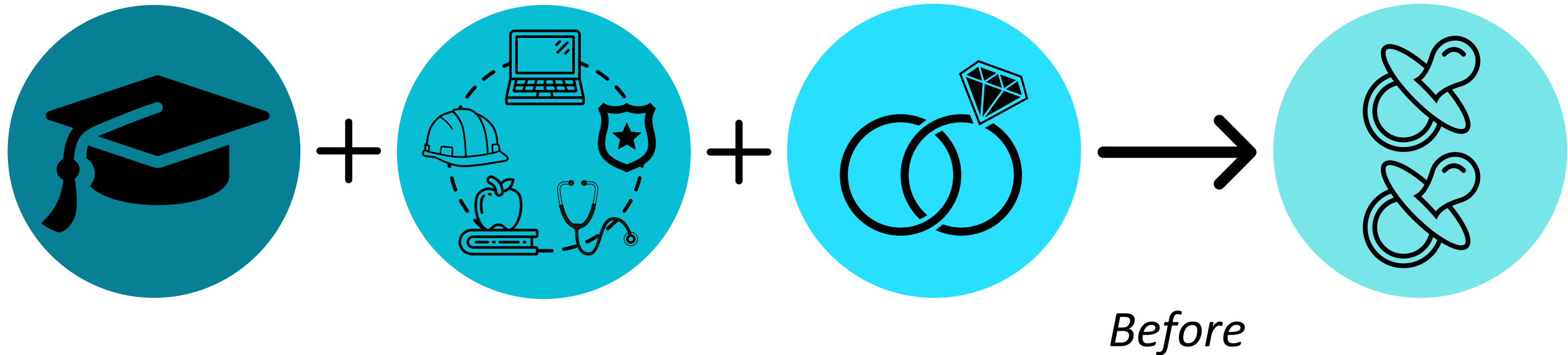
Avoiding a pregnancy is possible

- Decide not to have sex now – enjoy the benefits!
- Avoid risky situations, pace your physical involvements more slowly. Decide, don't slide in your relationships.
- It's good to understand the effectiveness rates, risks, and limitations of different contraceptive devices, and learn how to get them.



You can do this!

Success for Young Parents Combinations and Sequences



1. Focus on being the best parent you can be.
2. Finish high school and get as much college or training as you can.
3. Obtain employment.
4. Decide, don't slide with your love life. Have a committed partner or spouse BEFORE having a second child.

Key Takeaways

What were your key takeaways?

Key Takeaways

1. Following the Success Sequence significantly increases your chances of not being poor and of having a more stable and happy family life by your mid-30s.
2. If you want to have kids, marriage makes a difference.
3. It's never too late to get back on track.



My Success Plans



Homework

Share your success plans with a parent or trusted adult. Talk with them about what you learned today, and discuss the following:

- Ask your parent or trusted adult to think back on when they were 16 years old. Then ask them this question:
“What advice would you give your 16-year-old self about relationships and life choices?”



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