

P.E.A.C.E. Rights & Responsibilities

So you've got a boy/girlfriend. Now what? Being in a relationship, even when you're in middle school or high school, takes work. Just because you're "with" someone doesn't mean you lose your rights as an Individual. It does mean that you do have some responsibilities though.

RIGHTS

- **Patience**
 - *You have the right to take your time and decide when and where you want to do something or become part of a relationship.*
 - Just because everyone you know has a boy/girlfriend doesn't mean you need to rush into a relationship and risk making the wrong choice. *Remember its okay to be single.*
 - Once you find that special person take your time to get to know each other.
- **Empathy**
 - *You have the right to be with someone who takes the time to try to understand your feelings.*
 - Being able to imagine how others feel is an important skill in any relationship.
 - This becomes even more important when you decide you're going to become part of a couple.
- **Acceptance**
 - *You have the right to be accepted for who you are.*
 - Be honest with yourself! *Your style, beliefs and principles are what make you special and unique.*
 - Even though you are in a relationship you are still an individual.
- **Caring**
 - *You have the right to be in a caring relationship that ensures that your opinions and ideas are your own and your boundaries are respected.*
 - When someone cares about you they will use language that lifts you up. They will *encourage, empower, appreciate and recognize the positive in you and what you do.*
 - Your partner listens to you without judgment when you express an opinion or idea.
- **Equality**
 - *You have the right to be an equal party in your relationship.*
 - Your input to decide where to go and what to do is equally taken into consideration.
 - If you cannot compromise on something, you can agree to disagree.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Patience**
 - *You have the responsibility to be patient and respect a persons position in any situation.*
 - Relax and enjoy the time you have with the person you are with. The goal is to have fun and be happy.
 - Don't rush into snap judgments or make assumptions.
- **Empathy**
 - *You have the responsibility to take the time to try to understand your partner's feelings.*
 - Being able to imagine how others feel is an important skill in any relationship.
 - It's even more important when you decide you're going to become part of a couple.
- **Acceptance**
 - *You have the responsibility to accept your partner for who he/she is not what you want him/her to be.*
 - Who they are is what attracted you to your boy/girlfriend. *Their style, beliefs, and principles are what makes them special and unique.*
 - Respect the individuality of the person you have come to know and care for.
- **Caring**
 - *It is your responsibility to respect your partner's opinions, ideas and boundaries.*
 - Encourage, empower, appreciate and recognize the positive in your partner and what they do.
 - Care enough to be honest and kind at all times.
- **Equality**
 - *You have the responsibility to treat your partner as an equal party in your relationship.*
 - Ask your partner for their input about where you go and what you do together.
 - If you cannot compromise about something, agree to disagree

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