

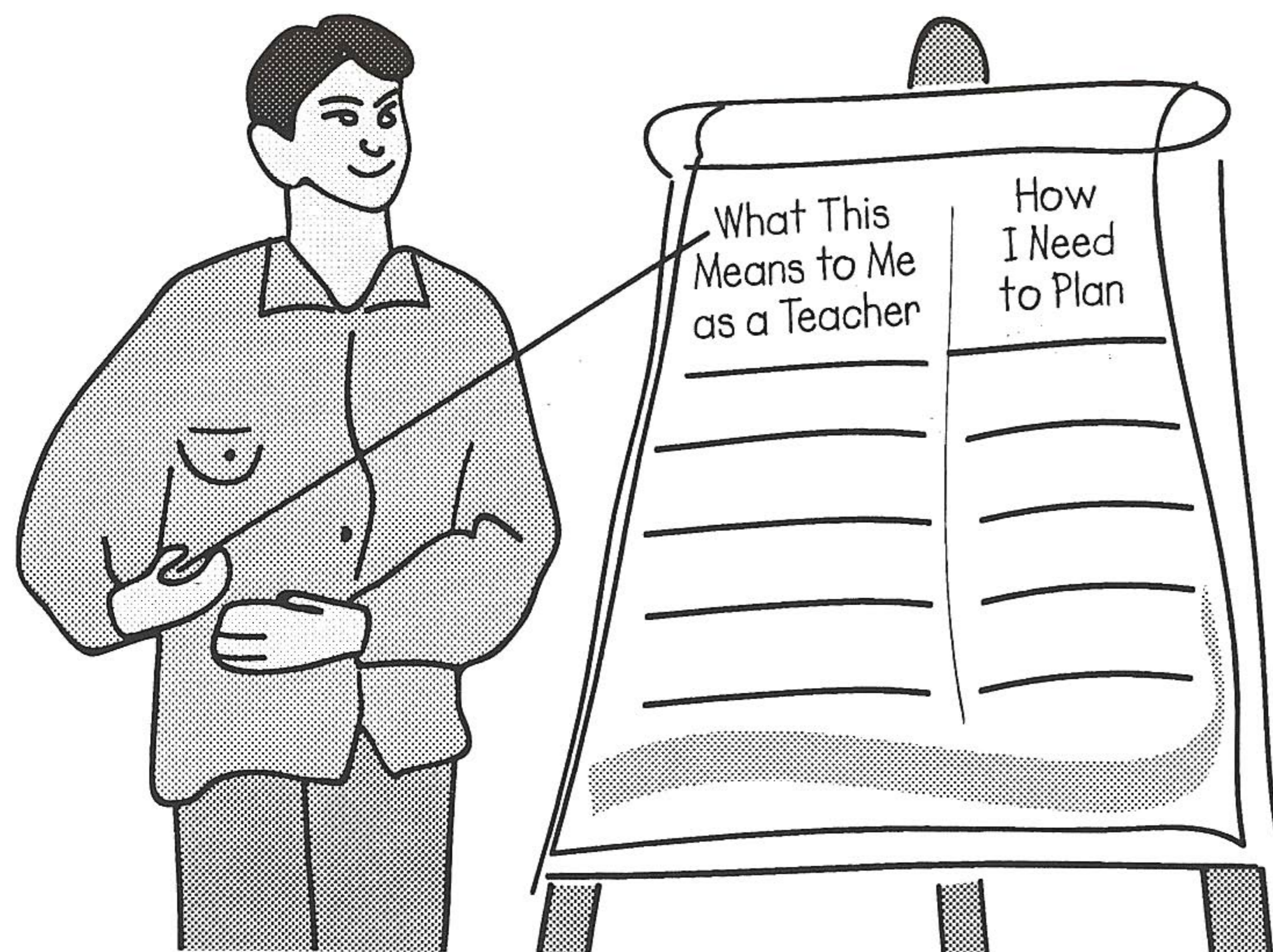
Teen Training Activities

The Puzzle of Children

Teenagers get less frustrated with younger children when they better understand the children's behavior. The purpose of this activity is to acquaint the teen teachers with normal behavior of young children and how this behavior can affect their work as teachers. It is a good activity to precede the situational or role-play activities.

Preparation

- Photocopy the puzzles (one for each group of teenagers) (see pp. 29–30) onto colored card stock. Cut along the lines and put each set of puzzle pieces into a different envelope.
- Make a two-column chart on a large sheet of butcher paper. Label the columns with these headings: What This Means to Me as a Teacher and How I Need to Plan.



Activity Directions

- Divide teenagers into groups of three to four.
- Give each group a puzzle and 5 to 10 minutes to assemble the puzzle as a team (make sure to emphasize teamwork). Encourage each group member to read each puzzle piece and briefly discuss with their group what the characteristic will mean to them as teachers and how they will plan accordingly.
- After the groups have finished, reconvene the large group for a group discussion.
- Each teen names a behavior or characteristic and tells how it might affect the teaching experience. Write these ideas in the first column. Then ask the group how they might plan their teaching to accommodate each issue. Write these ideas in the second column. For example, the teenagers might note that children ages 5 to 8 cannot sit still for very long, and that short learning activities mixed with physical games would work best.

