

Exercises for Chapter 8

8.1: Thinking About Parenting Time with Children.

One of the most important issues to settle in a divorce, if there are children involved, is how the children will allocate their time with each parent. It's important that parents try to decide this with the best interests of their children in mind rather than just consider their own wishes. Below, think about a possible responsibility and time-sharing plan that you feel would be in the best interests of your children and, as much as possible, fair to both parents. First think about who will have custody of the children. Then, consider time-sharing during the school year and time-sharing when children are out of school, such as the summer months. Then think about time-sharing on special occasions, such as birthdays and holidays.

A. CUSTODY. In the best interests of your children, who will have custody of the children or will you share custody of the children? Why is the best situation for your children? Write down your thoughts here:

B. TIME SHARING CALENDAR—SCHOOL YEAR. On the calendar below, map out a possible time-sharing schedule for your children for those times of the year when they are in school.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

C. TIME SHARING CALENDAR—SUMMER. On the calendar below, map out a possible time-sharing schedule for your children for those times of the year when they are not in school.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

D. TIME-SHARING ON SPECIAL OCCASIONS. Sometimes it can be difficult to decide who will have the children on special occasions, such as birthdays and holidays. Below, make a list of possible special days and indicate how time with children will be shared or allocated on these occasions. Think of the best interests of your children.

Special Occasion (e.g., birthdays, holidays):	How could time with children be shared or allocated?
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