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# Purposes & Stages

*of Dating*

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# Purpose of Dating

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- **Socialization**

- *To develop appropriate social skills.*
- *To practice getting along with others in different settings.*



# Purpose of Dating

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- ***Recreation***

- *To have fun and enjoy the companionship of others.*
- *To try new and different activities.*



# Purpose of Dating

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- ***Mate Selection***

- *To see others in many different settings.*
- *To compare the personality and characteristics of many people.*



# Stage One: Gushy

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- **Typical**
  - “We have so many things in common.”
  - “No one else has ever felt quite like this before.”
- **Characteristics**
  - *Artificial – both on best behavior*
  - *Same likes: music, cars, people, food*
  - *Everything is funny*
  - *Need to be physically touching*
  - *Constantly telling each other “I love you”*



# Stage One

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- More Characteristics . . .
  - *Non-critical*
  - *Writes the other persons name all over everything*
  - *Love the sound of their names together*
  - *Everything is funny*
  - *Co-equals*
    - *Where to eat, “you decide.” “No, you decide etc*
  - *Lots of kissing*
  - *Lots of talking to each other on the phone*
  - *Lots of text messaging, emailing, instant messaging*
  - *Attend ready made entertainment*
    - *Movies, dances etc.*



# Stage Two: Playing Games

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- Typical
  - Have hearts crossed out all over their notebooks.
  - Have swollen eyes from crying on the average of three times a day.
- Characteristics
  - *Very possessive and jealous*
  - *Comes late for dates or not ready.*
  - *Personality traits valued more than just an interest in the opposite sex.*
  - *A time of extremes: tears, happiness*
  - *Power struggle – where to eat, what movie to go see.*
  - *Pettiness—Little things made into big things*



# Stage 3: Goal Directed

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- Characteristics

- *They are glad to see each other and but still do things with other friends.*
- *They trust one another and are comfortable being themselves*
- *They are interested in seeing each other fulfill goals.*
- *Are more interested in each other's long-term happiness than in their own short-term pleasure.*
- *May be engaged or near engagement.*
- *Begin to notice things in each other: picky about food, stays up late, spend-thrift, etc.*
- *They can talk about non-romantic topics (in-laws, children, money, sex, religion, occupation, politics, holidays etc.)*

