

Marvelous Meaningful Monthly Math

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Central Area Tech Prep, Mitchell Technical Institute, and Bridges

Human Services January

Career – Psychologist

Math Activity

You're a research psychologist at a large university. You perform research and publish your findings in scholarly journals. Although your main area of study is child development, you've been concentrating on social issues involving child welfare -- child care, early childhood intervention services and parental leave in the event of birth or adoption.

A local Congressman wants help in his quest to get paid maternity leave passed into law. One way you can help is to provide some data regarding the ways in which other countries handle parental leave.

You come across a table comparing the lengths of time and funding of parental leaves in Sweden and Germany.

Sweden's system is the most generous, with 90 percent of a person's salary reimbursed for the first 9 months of the child's life, plus \$150 a month for the next 3 months. The mother gets a one-year maternity leave.

New parents in Germany are paid 100 percent of their regular salary for the first 3 months of the child's life, and then \$285 a month for the next 4 months. After that, they return to work at full salary.

You want to find out how these systems would translate into a real person's income in the U.S. Would such arrangements make it feasible for a new parent to stay home with his or her baby for the first year of the child's life?

Imagine a new mother who earns \$27,000 a year as a librarian. How much would she be paid during her one-year maternity leave in Sweden? How much would she earn over the course of her child's first year if she was in Germany?

Name _____ School _____ Teacher _____