

Minnesota Sexuality Education Resource Review Panel

Summary of Panel Review

Review Date: May 2007

Educator's Guide to Reproductive Health (2006)

Format: Manual

Target Audience: Stated Audience: Grades 6th -12th
Panel Recommended Audience: Grades 7th – College

Cost: Free

Distributor: Pro-Choice Resources (PCR), *The Birds and Bees Project*

250 3rd Ave. N, Suite 625, Minneapolis, MN 55401 • 612.825.2000 • www.birdsandbees.org

The Minnesota Sexuality Education Resource Review Panel

Highly Recommends

 use of this curriculum for the following reasons and with the following reservations:

Review Summary:

The *Educator's Guide to Reproductive Health* was developed by *The Birds and Bees Project*. Four chapters contain 18 activities that cover basic information about abstinence, contraceptives, STIs and unintended pregnancy options. The activities are intended to “allow students opportunity to examine reproductive health topics within the context of their own lives, leading to further exploration and clarification of their values.”

The panel **highly recommends** the *Educator's Guide to Reproductive Health* for the following reasons:

- Presents information that is medically accurate, current, and comprehensive.
- Includes information on abstinence, contraception, STIs and pregnancy options including abortion.
- States message that everyone has a choice, “abstinence is mentioned as the best choice, but not the only one.”
- Provides engaging activities for planning, communication, and decision-making skills.
- Addresses diverse learners (i.e. use of multiracial and gender neutral names, includes video, small group, parent conversations, retrospective/introspective activities, and includes information for GLBT students).
- Easily modifiable for different ages with suggested modifications.
- Provides excellent resources, references, and follow-up information for students and facilitators.

The panel has concerns about the following elements of *Educator's Guide to Reproductive Health*:

- Although there were some excellent activities for skill-building, the panel felt like there should be more emphasis on addressing social pressures and healthy relationships.
- Abortion is introduced as a viable pregnancy option. That said, a few of the panel members felt that the manual did not thoroughly address the potential risks and challenges of abortion.
- Leader may need strong facilitation skills to handle sensitive questions or concerns due to the comprehensive nature of the manual.
- Improvements could be made to make the graphics more appealing and handouts reproducible.
- Panel members advised that some of the material would not be appropriate or 12 year olds but that the manual does provide recommended adaptations.

Overall, the panel **highly recommends** the *Educator's Guide to Reproductive Health* for use as a sexuality education resource.

Educator's Guide to Reproductive Health (2006)

Assessment Criteria	Mean Score	Comments
Accuracy of Information - Provides basic, accurate information about teen sexual health, e.g., risks of teen sexual activity, ways to avoid intercourse or use methods of protection against pregnancy and STDs, human growth and development, relationships, etc.	4.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Information accurate and up to date. ▪ Comprehensive, covers contraception, STI and all pregnancy options ▪ One of the best-cited curriculum resources we've ever reviewed. ▪ Excellent resources.
Focus - Focuses on ways to promote sexual health e.g., reducing one or more sexual behaviors that lead to unintended pregnancy or HIV/STD infection; understanding healthy physical/emotional development; developing healthy relationships, etc.	4.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Focus on STIs, unwanted pregnancy prevention, and pregnancy options. ▪ Good focus on planning and reducing risky behaviors. ▪ No focus on developing healthy relationships or understanding healthy physical/emotional development.
Messages - Delivers and consistently reinforces a clear message, e.g., states message multiple times in multiple ways.	4.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Would be great to have a message about making decisions—no matter what decision you make has consequences. ▪ Included strong, consistent and straightforward message: abstinence is 100% effective and if not abstinence use birth control and protect yourself. ▪ Abortion is depicted in a very positive way. "Including information about long and short term psychological consequences of abortion would have added value to this material."
Addresses Social Pressures - Includes activities that address social pressures that influence sexual behavior.	3.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Peer and social pressures not addressed thoroughly. ▪ Pressures around condom use and pregnancy options addressed well.
Communication Skills - Provides examples of and practice with being assertive, using negotiation and refusal skills, making decisions, etc.	4.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Good focus on planning, making decisions and communication. ▪ Includes information and activities on communicating with parents, partners and others.
Teaching Methods - Employs a variety of teaching methods designed to involve participants and have them personalize the information.	4.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Great variety of engaging activities for a wide range of learning styles. ▪ Easy for educators to use including guidance for teachers and suggestions for adaptation.
Appropriateness for Audience - Incorporates behavioral goals, teaching methods, and materials that are appropriate to the age, sexual experience, and culture of the students (as stated by publisher.)	4.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provides different questions for varied age groups. "Easily modifiable for your age group." ▪ Honest, clear information "especially the information about abortion." ▪ "I think it's great that some activities are geared toward younger or older students."
Multicultural Perspective - This resource is most appropriate for the following audiences.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Addressed language(s) in several lessons to consider appropriateness. ▪ Inclusive of diverse groups of youth (e.g. race/ethnicity, orientation and sexual experience). ▪ Incorporate appropriate language and slang terms.
Teacher-Friendly - Is well organized with clear, thorough instructions or discussion guide. Minimal assembly or preparation time required.	3.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Well organized with clear instruction. However, some lessons require a lot of preparation. ▪ Some improvements could have been made regarding reproducible handouts.
Facilitation Skills Required - How knowledgeable and skilled must the facilitator be to use this resource effectively?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lots of reference information and referrals on where to get more information. ▪ With the possibility of controversy and sensitive nature of topic, strong facilitation skills recommended.
Presentation Quality - How appealing is the product (e.g. visual quality, sound quality, graphics, etc.)?	4.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Very simple, clear and user friendly. ▪ It would be nice to have more pictures and graphics and ready to use worksheets. ▪ Current and accurate citations.
Overall Recommendation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recommend Highly – 15 ▪ Recommend –0 ▪ Reject - 0