

Minnesota Sexuality Education Resource Review Panel

Summary of Panel Review
Review Date: December 2006

Our Whole Lives: Sexuality Education for grades 10-12 (2000)

Format: Curriculum

Target Audience: Grades 10-12

Cost: \$60.00

Distributed by the Unitarian Universalist Association

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The Minnesota Sexuality Education Resource Review Panel **Highly Recommends** use of this curriculum for the following reasons and with the following reservations:

Review Summary:

Our Whole Lives: Sexuality Education for grades 10-12 is one component of the *Our Whole Lives* lifespan series developed by the Unitarian Universalist Association. Unlike many other sexuality curricula available, this program is comprehensive and progressive. It helps senior-high youth gain the knowledge, life principles and skills they need to express their sexuality in life-enhancing ways. The creators believe that young people need sexuality education programs that model and teach caring, compassion, respect, and justice.

The curriculum is designed in a modular way to maximize its usefulness with senior high youth in a variety of settings. It contains 12 sessions (41 workshops), most of which take from 25 to 60 minutes, plus a parent orientation. Because of its flexibility ***Our Whole Lives: Sexuality Education for grades 10-12*** may be offered as a weekly session, bi-weekly session, regularly scheduled one hour workshop, as a week-long program at a conference or as a combination of weekend retreats and regular meetings.

The panel highly recommends ***Our Whole Lives: Sexuality Education for grades 10-12*** for the following reasons:

- Comprehensively covering all topics in a mature way.
- Easily Adaptable for any group
- Encourages parental involvement.
- Material well organized

The panel has concerns about this curriculum for the following reasons:

- STI information not all accurate (no instant syphilis test)
- Curriculum is wordy and dense with few graphics
- Birth control information out of date

Though the curriculum is well organized, very instructive and full of great lessons and activities the panel found that the material is very dense and would require a large amount of preparation time by the facilitator(s). The panel acknowledges that the facilitator(s) must have strong content knowledge and group skills.

Overall, the panel highly recommends ***Our Whole Lives: Sexuality Education for grades 10-12*** as a complete and factual curriculum.

Our Whole Lives: Sexuality Education for grades 10-12 (2000)

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.	4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Information is very comprehensive in dealing with teen sexual health, but some information is out of date (birth control) and inaccurate (STI testing & some information about abortion)
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.	5.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Thoroughly addresses emotional and social development and healthy attitudes. ▪ Excellent at focusing on relationship
Messages - Delivers and consistently reinforces a clear message, e.g., states message multiple times in multiple ways.	5.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The message is clear and reinforced through every activity in the curriculum: that the participants gain knowledge, gain skill to lead a sexually healthy and live responsible lives.
Addresses Social Pressures - Includes activities that address social pressures that influence sexual behavior.	4.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Addresses social pressures in multiple ways in many lessons ▪ Situations are realistically portrayed for teens
Communication Skills - Provides examples of and practice with being assertive, using negotiation and refusal skills, making decisions, etc.	5.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parental support and involvement are excellent ▪ Lots of practice talking with parents, friends and partners.
Teaching Methods - Employs a variety of teaching methods designed to involve participants and have them personalize the information.	5.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Great variety of methods/activities – it would be great for different learning styles. ▪ Fun and insightful – great discussion questions ▪ Some of the activities are very intense, time intensive to set-up, & quite intimate – may have to adapt to each audience ▪ Skits, debates, role-play, fish bowl, trust/non-verbal communication and analyzing media – this curriculum has it all.
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.)	4.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Appropriate for grade 9 to young adult
Multicultural Perspective - This resource is most appropriate for the following audiences.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Easily adaptable for any group, a church setting may be more appropriate, no modifications for those with disabilities ▪ Addressing GLBT audience ▪ Broad & useable
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"> ▪ Fairly dense reading! ▪ Full of great information for the teacher. Would take time to read and prepare. ▪ More pictures to facilitate those learners and break-up the text
Facilitation Skills Required - How knowledgeable and skilled must the facilitator be to use this resource effectively?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Facilitator must have strong content knowledge and group skills ▪ Facilitator needs to be comfortable, confident and prepared for this to work
Presentation Quality - How appealing is the product (e.g. visual quality, sound quality, graphics, etc.)?	2.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Good body diagrams, otherwise not many graphics ▪ Well-organized format per lesson, but difficult to read because of wordiness. ▪ Not appealing to look at
Overall Recommendation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recommend Highly - 10 ▪ Recommend - 1 ▪ Reject -0