



Sexual Health Education Instructional Materials Review

Curriculum Title: Play it Safe!

Year Published: Varies

Publisher: Women's Center of Tarrant County

Website: <https://www.playitsafe.org/>

Full or Supplemental: Supplemental

Grade Level: K-12

Student Population: General (Spanish language materials available)

Duration/Number of Lessons: 9 lessons for pre-K-grade 6; 3 lessons for middle school; 2 lessons for HS

Format and Features: USB Flash with Videos, scripts, dolls and coloring books (pre-K – grade 2)

Evidence-based/informed: Evidence-informed

National Standards Alignment: Not evident

Healthy Youth Act Compliance: Yes

AIDS Omnibus Act Compliance: N/A

Bias Free Materials: With modification (see reviewer comments)

Primary Topical Areas (Check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abortion | <input type="checkbox"/> Identity/Orientation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abstinence | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Online Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Access to Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy & Reproduction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anatomy and Physiology | <input type="checkbox"/> Puberty/Adolescent Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communication/Decision-making | <input type="checkbox"/> Refusal Skills |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Condom Use | <input type="checkbox"/> STD Prevention |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contraception | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Healthy relationships | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HIV Prevention | |

Reviewer Comments:

Reviewer 103

The Play it Safe curriculum emphasizes the importance of child sexual abuse prevention through the educating children/students about sexual violence through safe touch, unsafe touch and confusing touch and by finding safe, trusting adults when abuse including sexual, physical or psychological occurs. The curriculum includes lectures, exercises, videos and directions for instructors to perform and show with students. This may be beneficial as a supplemental curriculum but does not provide enough information to be used on its own. It leaves the responsibility of ending child sexual violence to potential victims instead of changing/teaching young students the socio-emotional & communicative skills which research has shown to reduce the perpetuation of child sexual abuse.

Pros:

Racially & Culturally Diverse/Representations.

Great examples and explanations for: personal boundaries, talking to a trusted adult, emphasizes confiding in different trusted adults until help/abuse ends and recognizing safe touch, unsafe touch and confusing touch and manipulations which occur in abuse.

Cons:

K-5th Grade Curricula is only 1-hour presentation for each grade.

One video uses German accent which could be offensive.

Not inclusive to the LGBTQ community.

Not inclusive/representative of persons with disabilities.

Mildly reinforces the gender binary.

Reviewer 208

The videos and the script are appealing, and I believe that youth will be able to relate. However, there was not a lot of diversity when it came to the couples. I believe that there is room to expand on the videos on more than just discussion.

Reviewer 109

The curriculum looks easy to use for the presenters. Each grade level builds on the next level as the students advance in school. It is recommended that the curriculum be presented to each student one time per year. This falls a little short on research that supports presenting the messages several times a year for students to make a change in attitude. Never-the-less, this is a great curriculum for elementary school students.

Reviewer 109

This is easy curriculum to implement in the classroom. The videos are engaging, age appropriate and well done. The video is only in English with no captions for student who are hearing impaired. It shows only heterosexual couples and does not address the LGBTQ+ community. Please note, there are no content trigger warnings in the script about the video for students who may have experienced sexual violence. This should be added to the scripts and a counselor or advocates available to students who may need support.

Reviewer 101

This material could be a decent booster or tool on sexual assault prevention for a larger health/sexual health curriculum. Curriculum is pretty narrow in scope and limited to lecture and a single video per topic. However, the content provided is strong and would be helpful for a larger curriculum or classroom/school-wide discussion of a topic.

Reviewer 202

Play it Safe is first and foremost a risk reduction curriculum. As someone who works with high school students, I know that the short-movies would read as a scare-tactic PSA. There are some positive messages in the curriculum, like that it is never the victim's fault and how it is very hard to leave an abusive relationship, but the positive aspects just about stop there. This curriculum does not have anything substantial that addresses the root causes of abusive relationships and sexual violence. There is no conversation or activities based around healthy behaviors. The big take-away from "Play it Safe" is that 1) it is important to report and 2) that it is important as a bystander (i.e. friend) to inform the victim that they should report and get medical attention. These sentiments are not true "upstream" preventative measures that will structurally alter the prevalence of violence in our communities.

Reviewer 206

Play It Safe is a very visually engaging curriculum - the videos are high quality and appropriate for their intended audience. However, the curriculum falls short in several categories. The middle school curriculum only has 3 lessons, which is not an adequate amount of material. Additionally, there's a strong emphasis on the importance of youth protecting themselves from sexual abuse, not on supporting survivors or the root causes of violence. The curriculum is based almost entirely on a short script that the facilitator reads, then participants watch a short film. There are no additional activities included and the learning objectives are not clearly defined, making it challenging to assess the effectiveness of the curriculum. Some of the material may be useful in classrooms but would almost certainly need to be combined with supplementary curriculum.