



Sexual Health Education Instructional Materials Review

Curriculum Title: Safer, Smarter Kids

Year Published: 2016

Publisher: Lauren's Kids

Website: www.safer-smarter-kids.org

Full or Supplemental: Supplemental

Grade Level: K-12

Student Population: General

Duration/Number of Lessons: Varies by grade level (5-8 lessons per grade)

Format and Features: Elementary – Large set of activity boxes, 1 per grade, includes USB with videos, posters, journals, parent letters, homework sheets, other visual aids; Middle school – binder includes USB with videos, lesson plans, parent letters, activity sheets, vocabulary card; High School – binder includes USB with videos, activity sheets, parent letters.

Evidence-based/informed: Not evident

National Standards Alignment: Aligned with Florida learning standards

Healthy Youth Act Compliance: Yes

AIDS Omnibus Act Compliance: N/A

Bias Free Materials: Yes

Primary Topical Areas (Check all that apply)

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|---|---|
| ☐ Abortion | ☐ HIV Prevention |
| ☐ Abstinence | ☐ Identity/Orientation |
| ☐ Access to Services | ☒ Online Safety |
| ☐ Anatomy and Physiology | ☐ Pregnancy & Reproduction |
| ☐ Communication/Decision-making | ☐ Puberty/Adolescent Development |
| ☐ Condom Use | ☐ Refusal Skills |
| ☒ Consent | ☐ STD Prevention |
| ☐ Contraception | ☐ Other |
| ☒ Healthy relationships | |

Reviewer Comments:

Reviewer 101

Content is accurate and there is a great deal of professional development materials. Strong diversity of content across the developmental spans. I believe this product could be effective at teaching children violence prevention strategies and increase personal safety, however, I did not find the material to be very engaging or contemporary. Animations were pretty stale and dialogue felt unnatural and forced.

Reviewer 1

This is an attractive and high-quality curriculum that is well planned and comprehensive in scope. Videos and other materials are available on included USB drives, and hard copies of student workbooks and other materials are also provided. I did not see explicit evidence of it being theoretically/research based, but it does incorporate evidence-based prevention practices. There are units available for each grade level - while they are well scaffolded, they are also somewhat repetitive - that may be a positive in reinforcing concepts and skills and it may be a negative in terms of keeping students' interest over the units and years. The materials are racially diverse, but I didn't see examples of people with varied abilities. There was some diversity in family structure represented, and one character who is homeless. Parent involvement is encouraged and parent letters available in Spanish.

The version for secondary students, "Safer, Smarter Teens," is less attractive. Videos provided use "experts" from the field of sexual abuse and law enforcement to discuss the issue, provide statistics and prevention information, and talk about resources. While this seems like a respectful way to educate teens, it is not particularly engaging. However, scenarios do include peers. Gender stereotypes are addressed in a very minimal way, but the examples/scenarios were strongly heteronormative.

Reviewer 2

The common thread missing throughout this curriculum is the theme of consent. There is a missed opportunity to solidify ideas about affirmative consent when talking about healthy relationships starting in elementary school and continuing this conversation throughout the middle and high school curriculum. The curriculum is well scaffolded throughout the elementary grades but seems repetitive at some points. I would use this in my classroom if it was being taught in addition to a comprehensive sexual health curriculum.

Reviewer 101

This is a modern looking curriculum package with helpful information for teens around respect, boundaries and consent. Videos use a broad range of voices from survivors of sexual violence, experts on prevention, law enforcement, legal experts and counselors. Material is easy to digest and teacher/user friendly.