Minnesota Sexuality Education Resource Review Panel
Summary of Panel Review
Review Date: March 2004

Puberty: The Wonder Years (2002)
Format: Curriculum
Target Audience: Grades 4-7
Cost: $45.00 plus $8.00 shipping and handling

Educational Materials Center
Central Michigan University
139 Combines Services Building, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48859 • 800-214-8961 • www.emc.cmich.edu

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

Review Summary:

Puberty: The Wonder Years is a puberty education curriculum designed to be part of a comprehensive health education program. It is targeted to late elementary and early middle school students. It is divided into three sequential sections to be taught over the course of three years, each containing six lessons. This curriculum was developed for implementation in Michigan so requires some adaptations for use in Minnesota.

The curriculum focuses on puberty - on normative adolescent sexual development, both physical and emotional, and on relationships with friends and family.   The panel felt that the curriculum provides accurate information on puberty and adolescent development and provides a clear message regarding postponing sexual involvement. The panel expressed concern, however, that the curriculum does not address STD/HIV prevention or the use of condoms/contraception. They recommended that the leader supplement the curriculum with videos and other activities that focus on these areas.

The panel felt the curriculum lacks activities that address social pressures and needs more opportunities to practice communication, negotiation, and refusal skills.

The panel found the curriculum to be teacher-friendly with clear directions and handouts for each lesson. They felt, however, that the activities would require extra prep time and a leader with moderate content knowledge and group leading skills. Panel members noted that the curriculum relies on supplemental materials, videos and brochures that are not included. Panel members felt that supplemental materials, however, could be drawn from other MSERRP approved materials.

Overall, the panel **recommends** the use of *Puberty: The Wonder Years* as a part of a comprehensive sexuality education program.

Puberty: The Wonder Years (2002)

Assessment Criteria	Mean Score	Comments
Accuracy of Information - Provides basic, accurate information about the risks of teen sexual activity and about ways to avoid intercourse or use methods of protection against pregnancy and STDs.	3.8	▪ Provides accurate information on puberty. ▪ Contains no detailed information about STDs/HIV, either facts or prevention. ▪ Does not address condoms/contraception
Focus - Focuses on reducing one or more sexual behaviors that lead to unintended pregnancy or HIV/STD infection.	3.4	▪ Focus is on puberty and sexual development .
Messages - Delivers and consistently reinforces a clear message about abstaining from sexual activity and/or using condoms or other forms of contraception.	3.3	▪ Addresses abstinence and postponing sexual activity. ▪ Does not address protection, i.e. condoms/contraception
Addresses Social Pressures - Includes activities that address social pressures that influence sexual behavior.	3.5	▪ Addresses social pressures and peer relationships in role plays in Would be helpful to include throughout curriculum.
Communication Skills - Provides examples of and practice with communication, negotiation and refusal skills	3.5	▪ Only Tier C (grades 6-7) includes discussion on relationships, communication, respect, and refusal skills. ▪ Attempts to encourage/strengthen parent-student communication. Panel supported the intent, but did not like some of the specific activities.
Teaching Methods - Employs a variety of teaching methods designed to involve participants and have them personalize the information.	4.3	▪ Good variety of teaching methods and ideas for extending the learning. ▪ Introduction and appendices are very complete.
Appropriateness for Audience - Incorporates behavioral goals, teaching methods, and materials that are appropriate to the age, sexual experience, and culture of the students.	2.9	▪ Depends on the audience and their level of cognitive development/maturity. Language is complex. Some lessons might be too advanced for the target audience. ▪ Some lessons are geared for abstract thinking for 7th grade- but the content needs to be taught at a younger level
Multicultural Perspective - Does this resource address the needs of communities of color; and/or issues of sexual orientation, gender, and disability?		▪ Needs to include more culturally diverse lessons and examples. ▪ Includes examples of different types of families and encourages parent-child relationships. ▪ Includes some discussion of homosexuality.
Addresses needs of diverse learners -		▪ No specific adaptations.
Teacher-Friendly - Is well organized with clear, thorough instructions or discussion guide. Minimal assembly or preparation time required.	3.5	▪ Very clear directions and discussion guide ▪ Intro and appendix very thorough and helpful, well organized ▪ Requires extra time to prepare for lessons/
Facilitation Skills Required - How knowledgeable and skilled must the facilitator be to use this resource effectively?		▪ Requires facilitator with moderate content knowledge and group leading skills. ▪ Needs to be able to simplify some of the information. ▪ Provides good question and answer section for difficult questions
Presentation Quality - How appealing is the product (e.g. visual quality, sound quality, graphics, etc.)?	4.0	▪ Good handouts, worksheets and overheads. Easy to read and follow, and can copy them. ▪ Clear, concise, and on target
Overall Recommendation		▪ **Recommend Highly - 2** ▪ **Recommend - 8** ▪ **Reject - 2**