

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Reproductive Health Parent Resources

The Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Sex Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) has compiled a list of reproductive health resources for the purpose of encouraging ongoing and accurate discussions about sexuality between parent and student. The book list includes many good resources identified by the American Academy of Pediatrics and found in the *Pediatric Advisor*, a resource utilized by many local pediatricians. Some of the websites listed provide additional recommendations for books and other resources.

The internet has become a source of health information for many individuals and families. Unfortunately, some information available on the internet is inaccurate. When seeking health information from the internet, ask the following questions to help judge the quality of a website:

- Who wrote the material and what are the author's qualifications? If credentials are difficult to find, the site may not be reliable.
 - Do the authors identify the original sources of the health information they provide?
 - Who is paying for the website? The source of funding can affect the content that is posted on it.
 - How long ago was the information posted or updated? Health and medical information is constantly changing.
 - Is the site run by a known authority such as the National Institutes of Health, a noted university or medical center, or the association identified with the health issue? Websites that end in 'gov' or 'edu' indicate government or university sponsorship.
 - Is the site trying to sell something? Pop-up ads are a sign that commerce, not education, could be the main goal.
 - Is the site accredited? Look for a "seal of approval" from such groups as HONcode or URAC. The HONcode logo shows the site meets standards of the Health on the Net Foundation.
 - Is the site copyrighted? That too may indicate accuracy.
 - Does the site feature a lot of forceful language? Beware of phrases such as "This is not a hoax" or "Send this to everyone you know".
 - Make sure the website address is accurate, especially when looking for reproductive health content.
- From *Living Healthy*, Fall 2006

Parents are encouraged to preview any reproductive health resource and its content, especially for age-appropriateness of information, prior to introducing the material to your child. Keep in mind that a resource that is helpful for one family or one child within a family may not work for another family or individual.

The PCCS district reproductive health program is ABSTINENCE-ONLY in the elementary and middle schools. An abstinence-only program promotes abstinence from sexual behaviors as the only way to completely avoid the negative consequences of being sexually active.

The high school reproductive health program is ABSTINENCE-BASED. The program in the high school promotes abstinence as the only way to completely avoid the negative consequences of being sexually active. The district reproductive health program also teaches ways to reduce the risk of pregnancy or HIV/AIDS and STD infection associated with sexual activity.

Age appropriate HIV/AIDS prevention is taught in the district at each educational level (Elementary school (5th grade); Middle school (6th or 7th grade); High School (In health class)).

Michigan state law (P.A. 226 of 1977) states that the parent/guardian has the right to review the materials to be used in any district reproductive health program. Contact your child's teacher if you wish to preview any materials used in the reproductive health program.

We hope that you will find the resources helpful as you guide the learning of your child.