

Comprehensive Sexual Health Education Instructional Materials Review 2023

Just Around the Corner – For Boys

Year Published/Revised: Not available

Publisher: Marsh Media

Website: <https://marshmedia.com/collections/puberty-dvds/products/just-around-the-corner-for-boys-dvd>

Full or Supplemental: Supplemental

Grade Level: Elementary and Middle School (Grades 4-6)

Student Population: General

Duration/Number of Lessons: DVD video

Format and Features: DVD video: 11:28 min.; Closed Captioned

Available in Multiple Languages: English, Spanish

Evidence-based/informed: No

National Standards Alignment: No

Consistent with WA Health Education Standards? Yes

Consistent with Comprehensive Sexual Health Education Law? With modification

Consistent with AIDS Omnibus Act? N/A

Inclusive Materials/Strategies: No

Bias-Free Materials: With modification



Primary Subject Areas Covered:

- Anatomy and Physiology, Reproduction, and Pregnancy (Pregnancy for Grade 6+)
- Growth and Development/Puberty
- Self-Identity (gender stereotypes, gender identity, sexual orientation, etc.)
- Prevention (general)
 - HIV/AIDS Prevention
 - Pregnancy Prevention
 - STD Prevention
 - Health Care and Prevention Resources
- Healthy Relationships (general)
 - Affirmative Consent
 - Bystander Training
 - Intrapersonal and Interpersonal Communication Skills for Healthy Relationships
 - The development of meaningful relationships and avoidance of exploitative relationships
- Understanding the influences of family, peers, community, and the media throughout life on healthy sexual relationships

Reviewer Comments:

Reviewer 304

This product seems very dated. The clothing and items (and general production and theme song) seem like it was made in the 90s. The fact that this product is specifically marketed toward boys further makes it seem dated, as most of the information included is applicable towards students of all genders (like “take showers and eat healthy foods”), and the implied idea that students should only be learning about their own bodies and not the bodies of others seems antiquated. The video states that sexual maturation is for reproductive purposes and doesn't acknowledge the aspect of pleasure at all. The video doesn't seem engaging, because it doesn't have any real characters—just a narrated list of things you should do, and things that might happen to you. There are no additional teacher guides or supports.

Reviewer 309

The language and imagery do not reflect gender diverse students, students with disabilities, or diverse family structures.

Much of this information does not need to be sex segregated.

An emphasis on the importance of appearance is consistent throughout the video. “Looks” are considered “important,” including in a conversation on the benefits of exercise. However, the section on



body image, present in the video for girls, is missing here. This emphasis on appearance and different approaches to the sexes reinforces harmful gender stereotypes.

Reviewer 311

The Just Around the Corner - for Boys, video is short and covers several key topics. There is one glaring issue that I saw in this product: this product is very cis-gendered and normed, it does not allow for the representation or education of trans or intersex youth who may benefit from this content. In addition, the product asserts there is no way to slow down puberty. This assertion is false and outdated. Since the approval of puberty suppressors (puberty blockers), there is medicine that can be taken to slow down the process of puberty particularly for trans or gender-diverse youth who need more time to navigate their identity. The animated person they use to explore anatomy is white, this is the same issue in the JATC for Girls. Overall, the product seems dated, though still useable as a supplement not a standalone tool and may require additional discussion and caveats to be given by the teacher/facilitator.

Reviewer 321

Overall, I thought the video was fine and informative. However, I thought the video seemed a little outdated and youth in grades 4-6 may struggle to pay attention to the information. An additional shortcoming of the video is that there aren't instructional materials to help evaluate student's learning or spark discussion. Regarding inclusivity, the video does not address diverse self-identities and uses binary gendered language.

Reviewer 322

*Was on the fence between Agree/Disagree on first 2 items of Recommendation Section. Details below.

This video is short, informative, uses age-appropriate (intended for grades 4-6) and normalizing language, covering the physical, social, and emotional changes that occur during puberty. It lacks resources or lessons to go with it. No closed captioning is available at least in the way I accessed the video, but there is a Spanish version. Two shortcomings of the script: First, they should add the section on body image and media's influence from the "girls" video here as well; it's relevant to all contemporary youth. Second, the topic of pregnancy and fertilization is not covered equally across the "girls" and "boys" videos. The material inadvertently places the responsibility of pregnancy only on "girls". I appreciate the inclusion of self-esteem, peer influence, and self-consciousness.

Overall, the material does not seem sufficiently inclusive, bias-free or culturally responsive. The material is highly gender-dichotomous in both its language and images; experiences of non-binary and trans youth are excluded. The cheerful tone leaves no space for the dysphoric changes experienced by some youth around puberty. There is some diverse representation in its actors, but in general lacking especially of gender, dis/ability, culture/religion, or body shape.

The audio and visual quality is overall good, but the footage and effects are outdated. Depiction of technology particularly needs modernizing (no mention of smart phones or social media). I found the visuals somewhat distracting from the narration; I had to rewatch to capture all the information being said. If I were to use this material, I would immediately follow it with the "girls" video for more comprehensive instruction. More likely, I would try to find a different video altogether.



Reviewer 320 (Med/Sci)

The material discusses the impact of technology during puberty but is outdated in 2023.

OSPI Comments

This video is lacking in diversity. It is not inclusive of all students (e.g., students who identify as LGBTQ+ or students with disabilities), as required by law.

