



Sexual Health Education Instructional Materials Review

Curriculum Title: Darkness to Light

Year Published: Not evident

Publisher: Stewards of Children

Website: www.d2l.org

Full or Supplemental: Supplemental

Grade Level: Adult

Student Population: Program for adults who work with children and youth

Duration/Number of Lessons: One to two sessions

Format and Features: Videos, interactive workbook

Evidence-based/informed: Not evident

National Standards Alignment: N/A

Healthy Youth Act Compliance: Yes

AIDS Omnibus Act Compliance: N/A

Bias Free Materials: Yes, with modifications

Primary Topical Areas (Check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abortion | <input type="checkbox"/> Identity/Orientation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abstinence | <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Consent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Prevention of child sexual abuse) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contraception | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Healthy relationships | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HIV Prevention | |

Reviewer Comments:

Reviewer 202

Darkness to Light is a comprehensive Child Sexual Abuse prevention curriculum targeted at parents, caregivers, and other adults that work with children. It is effective in the way that it focuses on adults to prevent CSA instead of the children, as we know that children should not take the burden of prevention on themselves. The components of Darkness to Light include videos and an interactive workbook, making it more engaging than it could be otherwise. However, it relies very heavily on fear-tactics and an intense saturation of descriptions of trauma, while only briefly touching on the root causes of CSA. Instead of blaming survivors for their victimization, it blames parents and caregivers and other adults who do not do enough to protect their children. While many of the skills and practices they espouse are important safety tips, it doesn't appear to insist on much else other than making sure that a perpetrator abuses a different child. For example, it recommends that there should never be a group of children alone with an adult or older youth, such as in a summer camp setting. While this is good, common sense safety advice, how does it actually prevent that adult or older youth from abusing a child? If they are at a high-risk of perpetrating CSA, it merely means that perhaps in that instance they will not, not that they will never.

Overall Darkness to Light is a very important tool to teach adults about CSA, sexual assault in general, how they can respond to disclosures from children and youth, and how to teach the children in their care about correct information regarding sex and accurate descriptions of body parts. It does not, however, go that extra level and really dig into the root causes of CSA and how we can end perpetration before it starts.

Reviewer 205

Darkness to Light is designed to be presented to adults who work with children or are parents. Not intended to be presented to children or youth.

The curriculum is designed to be completed in one or two sessions.

There are many, many survivor stories, which could be triggering for some participants. The curriculum is more focused on risk reduction and protecting children instead of addressing perpetration behavior.

There is a small section on talking to children about boundaries and consent. The videos are high quality and include people from diverse backgrounds and experiences. The session is primarily video led, though could be incorporated into a larger, discussion and activity-based program.

Reviewer 208

This curriculum is a great tool for adults in general. It does not seem to be geared towards youth, however, most of the information and training could be modified to fit youth.