

Why Teach Family Life and Human Development?

- To support parents as the primary sexuality educators.
- To counteract the negative messages about sexuality portrayed in the mass media.
- To promote a healthy attitude about human sexuality.
- To encourage abstinence as the safest, healthiest choice for adolescents.
- To help students navigate through early adolescence – a time of significant change in growth and development.

Parent TIPS for talking to kids about sexuality:

- Take advantage of “teachable moments” to discuss and share your views about human sexuality topics that are part of music, TV, movies, news or other moments where issues arise.
- Give correct sexuality information.
- Talk about your values regarding sexuality behavior.
- Tell your child you are open to talking.
- Say what you believe is right and wrong.
- Listen. Sometimes, the less you say: the more a child will talk.
- Teach the child ways to make good decisions about sex.
- Coach kids on what to say and do to get out of a risky situation.
- Start talking early. It will keep the lines of communication open throughout your lives.



Parents and Teachers:

Partners in Middle School

*Family Life
&*

Human Sexuality Education

Carroll County Public Schools

The Program

As part of the middle school instructional program, all students in grades six, seven, and eight participate in comprehensive health education instruction. The Family Life and Human Sexuality Unit is just one of the seven units taught in health education. This unit was developed based on national and state health education standards and in accordance with Maryland State Regulation 13A.14.01.02.

The specific outcomes and activities are designed to be developmentally appropriate for students at each grade level. The information promotes abstinence as the safest, healthiest choice for adolescents. Students may be excused from the Family Life and Human Sexuality lessons upon written permission from their parent or guardian. Appropriate alternative instruction will be provided for those being excused.



Making Home Connections

Every parent is invited to attend a parent meeting at their school to review the information and materials used in the unit. Parents are encouraged to discuss the Family Life topics and information with their child.

Web sites: www.4parents.gov
www.cdc.gov

What is being taught in each grade?

<i>Grade 6</i>	<i>Grade 7</i>	<i>Grade 8</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Puberty: growth and development * Anatomy and physiology of the male and female reproductive system * Menstrual cycle * Fertilization * HIV/AIDS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Puberty: growth and development * Peer relationships * Physiology of the reproductive system * Abstinence as the safest, healthiest choice for adolescents * Sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Physiology of the male and female reproductive systems * Refusal and decision making skills * Abstinence as the safest, healthiest choice for adolescents * Influence and consequence of adolescent sexual behavior * Prevention of sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS * Pregnancy and fetal development

For additional information, contact your child's health teacher.

