

Puberty, day 2

Grades 4-6, Lesson #10

Time Needed

40-50 minutes

Student Learning Objectives

To be able to ...

1. Distinguish puberty facts from myths.
2. Anticipate puberty with positive feelings, recognizing that the timing of change is individual.

Agenda

1. Review purpose of lesson.
2. Respond to "Anonymous Question Box" questions re: puberty.
3. Use "Puberty Worksheet #2" to reinforce facts and debunk fears/myths re: puberty.
4. Summarize by discussing peer pressure in the puberty years.

Materials Needed

Student Materials: (for each student)

- *Puberty Worksheet #2*
- OPTIONAL for family homework, pamphlets: *The Talk-To-Me Books* are sets of 2 pamphlets for each family with which grown-ups and students interview one another. Available from Planned Parenthood of Western Washington: education@ppww.org or call 206-328-7715

Activity

1. Explain again the reasons you are doing these lessons on puberty.

- Sometimes people are afraid of things they don't understand.
- Sometimes people feel as if they are the ONLY one to ever experience certain changes; they may "dump on" themselves because they think they are "abnormal."
- Those feelings are UNNECESSARY; people can look forward to puberty with excitement and pleasure, IF they know what to expect!

2. Respond to "Anonymous Question Box" questions re: puberty.**3. Use "Puberty Worksheet #2" to reinforce facts and debunk fears/myths re: puberty.**

- a. Divide the class into 3 teams.
- b. Hand out "Puberty Worksheet #2" and give the teams 20 minutes to reach consensus (within each team) on each item. Encourage people to discuss the items they disagree on, to explain to one another why they believe as they do about an item.
- c. Have one spokesperson for each team write their team's responses on the blackboard and explain, one at a time, why they chose a particular answer. You can award 1 point for each correct answer and an extra ½ point to the team with the best explanation.

4. Summarize by discussing peer pressure in the puberty years.

Discuss how it felt to disagree with teammates, whether there was overt peer pressure to agree (for consensus) or whether each person was considerably listened to. Summarize the lesson by explaining that, at puberty, it is probably more difficult than at any age before or after to disagree with the crowd BECAUSE one is beginning to separate from one's family and to gradually identify more with friends. That is normal...and one has to find ways to trust one's own judgment AT THE SAME TIME as one enjoys one's friends.

Related Activities For Integrated Learning

A. Language Arts

Add to glossary, the terms "endocrine system," "erection," "hormone," "menstrual period," "nocturnal emission," "ovum," "penis," "pituitary gland," "sperm," "uterus," and "vagina".

B. Social Studies

Students may do reports on puberty rites of various cultures.

C. Math

Have students find the average age of puberty for males and females, given hypothetical children: (Do not use names of children in your class.)

Ann: 9 yrs, 2 mo. (age 9.2)
Bob: 12 yrs, 0 mo. (age 12.0)
Cathy: 12 yrs, 0 mo. (age 12.0)
Diana: 12 yrs, 11 mo. (age 12.9)
Ed: 13 yrs, 11 mo. (age 13.9)
Gary: 14 yrs, 8 mo. (age 14.7)
Faye: 15 yrs, 6 mo. (age 15.5)
Henry: 15 yrs, 10 mo. (age 15.8)

(answer: girls 12.4, boys 14.1)

NOTE: Depending upon your students' math skill level you can have them convert months to decimal fractions of a year, or you can provide the decimals.

Homework

Students' options:

- Discuss with an adult in the family *Puberty Worksheets 1 and 2* *
- With an adult in family, use *The "Talk-To-Me" books*, sets of 2 pamphlets with which parents and students interview one another. They allow children and the adults who love them an opportunity to practice communicating. They help people articulate their own and their family's, generation's and culture's beliefs and feelings about growing up, family life and sexual health.
- Write a letter to a 6 or 7-year-old, real or imaginary, about growing up.

*see "Preparing Parents" pages 4-5

Puberty Worksheet 2

NAME _____ DATE _____

DIRECTIONS: Write "T" for "true" next to each statement you believe is correct.
Write "F" for "false" next to the wrong statements.

- _____ 1. Girls may start puberty any time between the ages of 9 and 16.
- _____ 2. Usually, boys start puberty a little younger than girls.
- _____ 3. The pituitary gland, in the brain, tells the body when to begin puberty.
- _____ 4. Boys only get erections when they think about something sexual.
- _____ 5. A person's feelings may change from moment to moment, especially during puberty.
- _____ 6. If your parents started puberty early, you might too.
- _____ 7. You can tell whether a girl is menstruating by looking at her.
- _____ 8. Boys often have some breast growth during puberty.
- _____ 9. It is common for boys to have nocturnal emissions at puberty, but it is also healthy not to.
- _____ 10. The main reason teenagers get acne is they eat the wrong foods.
- _____ 11. Girls should not use tampons until they are grown.
- _____ 12. The vagina is always wet, just like the mouth and eyes.
- _____ 13. There is something wrong with a boy if he ejaculates in his sleep.
- _____ 14. If a boy has not started puberty by age 13, he should see a doctor, because there might be something wrong with his endocrine system.
- _____ 15. It is OK for a girl to shower or play sports during her menstrual period.
- _____ 16. A boy should start wearing an athletic supporter ("jock strap") during puberty when he plays sports, to protect and support his genitals.
- _____ 17. A girl may start wearing a bra for support when her breasts start to develop, especially if she is uncomfortable being active and playing sports.
- _____ 18. It is necessary to wash more often once you begin puberty.

Puberty Worksheet 2 - Answer Key

NAME _____ DATE _____

DIRECTIONS: Write "T" for "true" next to each statement you believe is correct.
Write "F" for "false" next to the wrong statements.

- T 1. Girls may start puberty any time between the ages of 9 and 16.
- F 2. Usually, boys start puberty a little younger than girls.
- T 3. The pituitary gland, in the brain, tells the body when to begin puberty.
- F 4. Boys only get erections when they think about something sexual.
- T 5. A person's feelings may change from moment to moment, especially during puberty.
- T 6. If your parents started puberty early, you might too.
- F 7. You can tell whether a girl is menstruating by looking at her.
- T 8. Boys often have some breast growth during puberty.
- T 9. It is common for boys to have nocturnal emissions at puberty, but it is also healthy not to.
- F 10. The main reason teenagers get acne is they eat the wrong foods.
- F 11. Girls should not use tampons until they are grown.
- T 12. The vagina is always wet, just like the mouth and eyes.
- F 13. There is something wrong with a boy if he ejaculates in his sleep.
- F 14. If a boy has not started puberty by age 13, he should see a doctor, because there might be something wrong with his endocrine system.
- T 15. It is OK for a girl to shower or play sports during her menstrual period.
- T 16. A boy should start wearing an athletic supporter ("jock strap") during puberty when he plays sports, to protect and support his genitals.
- T 17. A girl may start wearing a bra for support when her breasts start to develop, especially if she is uncomfortable being active and playing sports.
- T 18. It is necessary to wash more often once you begin puberty.