Elementary Health Education and the Prevention of Gang Involvement

Additional Resources

The following resources are a compilation of teaching tools (lesson plans, videos, books, articles…), background information and community implementation strategies. Please take the time to look at the resources and find the ones that best suit your school, students and community needs. Some resources may not be suitable for all ages and maturity levels.

I. Resources:

Websites: Please ensure websites are available before use in a classroom as websites often change location and accessibility. It is necessary to review each website for content and usage before utilizing it in the classroom. Many websites are not classroom friendly and should be used as a learning tool for teachers and parents. Websites are not listed in alphabetical order.

✓ Regina Police Service website offers a variety of tools to help combat gangs. Their RU Down or RU Out: A Youth Perspective On Inner City Gangs gang prevention strategy includes a video, links to helpful websites and a complete version of the Gang Prevention Curriculum Support Materials for schools - http://www.reginapolice.ca/gang_prevention.html.

✓ Deal.org is a website that tackles the issue of gang involvement as well as many other social issues youth face today - http://deal.org/. It contains information for students, teachers and parents on a variety of issues facing youth. Its features include webzine, toolbox, knowzone, blog it and get involved.

✓ Concerned Children’s Advertisers - teaching Children to eat smart, move more and be media wise. http://www.cca-kids.ca/tvandme/english/educators/index.html or http://www.cca-kids.ca/tvandme/. This website gives information on media literacy, peer pressure, substance abuse prevention, active living, self-esteem, critical thinking and children and bullying for both parents and teachers. CCA’s website has many ready to use lesson plans and extended learning experiences for classroom use K-9.


✓ City of Calgary interactive website on gangs – www.getalife.ca and http://www.youthlinkcalgary.com (be sure to look at Keith’s gang encounter) are great learning websites for students, parents and teachers.
Addressing Community Gang Problems: A Model for Problem Solving. The U. S. Bureau of Justice Assistance. A school or community can use an extensive set of worksheets at the end of the document to guide the development of a gang response plan.
http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles/156059.pdf

Random Acts of Kindness Foundation -
http://www.actsofkindness.org/classroom/. This website is a great way to communicate to youth the importance of kindness. It shows how kindness makes a difference in our lives. The website has many ready to use lesson plans and plenty of useful information.

Canadian Red Cross RespectED: Violence Prevention – A Program dedicated to preventing violence.
http://www.redcross.ca/article.asp?id=000005&tid=003

Kids Help Phone – offering support to youth across Canada.
http://www.kidshelpphone.ca/en/. This website offers free material, teaching aids and lesson plans to use in the school and at home. Follow the links - (newsroom - info for schools – ways your school can help – building awareness in schools – teacher’s guide). Also see -

RCMP informational article - Feature Focus: Youth Gangs and Guns 2006.
http://www.deal.org/content/files/Knowzone/youth_gangs_and_guns.rcmp_attachment.pdf. This site gives an in-depth look into gang culture and their connection to guns.

Coloring book warehouse -
http://www.coloringbookwarehouse.com/coloring_activity_books/police_crime_prevention offers a great selection of colouring books on a variety of topics including gangs.

Graffiti Hurts http://www.graffitihurts.org is an organization that offers a plan to put a stop to graffiti. It contains lessons and information about graffiti and its affects on the community.

Paramount city is the creator of the GRIP program (Gang Resistance is Paramount). Posters, colouring books, edited videos for classroom use and workbooks can be ordered from the GRIP program
http://paramountcity.com/docs/recreation.php or call Paramount City directly (562) 220-2121.

Bullying prevention and school plus information can be found at

Information on substance abuse can be obtained from the sasklearning website

Bullying prevention

Information on financial support to get youth involved in sports and recreation can be found at http://www.sasksport.sk.ca/kidsport/kidsport.html. Kidsport is a non-profit group that provides youth financial assistance to participate in sporting activities.

Video: It is necessary to preview each video before showing it in a classroom setting. Some videos may not meet the standards or variations of your school or community.

Gangs: Decisions and Options. Discovery Learning http://teacherstore.discovery.com (1997). #824656, $49.95. Issues of low self-esteem, dysfunctional families and fears of gang violence and reprisal are covered with realism and sensitivity. Three youngsters from different backgrounds grapple with their decision to join a gang or reject membership.


Teen Files FLIPPED: Gang Member/Law Enforcement. Discovery Learning http://teacherstore.discovery.com (2001). #857748, $149.95. In this hard-hitting examination of inner city life from the producer of the award-winning Teen Files and Scared Straight series, John, a law enforcement officer, and Carlos, a teenage gang hanger-on, trade places for a day. With his gang, John faces taunts and threats from another gang, prejudice from the public when he tries to apply for a job, and harassment from law enforcement officers, even though he's done nothing wrong. At the same time, Carlos struggles to control his anger while dealing with confrontational gang members and seeks to comfort and aid the victims of violence. The worst moment of his day comes when the corpse of a gang shootout victim is found to be carrying his own ID and his partner has to tell Carlos' parents their only son is dead.


**The following resources are from the Saskatchewan Learning’s “Video Duplication Service” catalogue 2006-2007 and can generally be purchased for $1.00 by educators – guides may be extra.**


Anger Management for Youth: stemming aggression and violence. Eggert, Dr. Leona L. National Educational Service, 1994. ISBN 1879639297. This book contains lessons on anger management for youth. It has many interactive and informative lessons to help youth tackle various issues of anger including, getting to know your anger sequence, taking control of your anger responses and applying anger control at home, school, work and in your personal relationships.

Boys Know it All: wise thoughts and wacky ideas from guys like you. Roehm, Michelle. Beyond Words Publishing Inc, 1998. ISBN 1885223870. This book has contributions from more than 30 boys from around the country. Writing on issues ranging form sibling problems and using computers, to how to talk to girls.

Choices and Decisions: Violent Feelings modern issues that affect you. Sanders, Pete. Aladdin books Ltd., 2006. ISBN 1596040750. This book tackles the social issues that concern young readers today. Each topic is explored from a personal as well as a social perspective.


The Book of You. Funston, Sylvia. Greey de Pencier Books Inc., 2000. ISBN 1895688957 or 1895688965. This book takes a fun look at young peoples individuality. It spans topics from your fingerprints, to your dreams, as well as taking a look at body language, how your brain works, personality types and more.


When Life Stinks: how to deal with your bad moods, blues and depression. Daly, Melissa, Piquemal, Michel. Amulet Books an imprint of Harry N. Abrams Inc., 2004. ISBN 0810949326. This book looks at why we have black moods, blues, and depression, along with ideas for battling all three.