CLASSROOM CLIMATE

Research has shown the teacher to be the single most important resource in the classroom. The sensitive nature of sex education demands knowledgeable, well-trained and caring teachers who are cognizant of the needs of students. Teachers must be comfortable with the content of the material to be presented. Teacher selections and in-service training provided by T.U.S.D. are critical determinants to the effectiveness of the program.

In order to create a climate conducive to effective learning within a comfortable, non-threatening environment, clear rules and regulations of behavior must be emphasized. Teachers need to introduce themselves as trained and knowledgeable about human growth and development. All students’ questions will be considered valid. Proper terminology will be used by the teacher and student slang words or expressions will be interpreted to correct terminology. Teachers will encourage students to discuss the course content and their questions with their parents and family. Students’ questions or vocabulary that are not included in the grade level lessons will be identified and the student will then be referred to his/her family, if the questions can not be answered using age-appropriate information provided. Teachers will emphasize that students’ peers do not always have correct information about human growth and development. In addition, the “Question Box” will be available in class for students to ask questions anonymously.

PARENT PARTICIPATION

Parent participation is highly valued by T.U.S.D. A parent informational meeting will be held prior to classroom presentations to allow for a review of curriculum content and viewing of materials to be used in teaching the lessons. A content outline will be provided for parents/guardians with a letter requesting permission for students to participate. Information regarding alternative lessons will also be presented at this time.