

## Qualities of an Effective Sexuality Educator

### Non-Judgemental Style

- Clarify personal beliefs on topics being taught.
- Make an effort not to teach personal convictions.
- Validate and respect the wide variety of beliefs that may exist among the learners.
- Acknowledge multiple points of view.
- Provide information and skills, and acknowledge that students will come to their own conclusions.

### Clarity

- Clarity is necessary to ensure that information is passed on accurately.
- Use both medical and slang terminology so students know what you are talking about. Discuss the appropriateness of using certain terms at certain times.
- Avoid euphemisms that tend to confuse students.
- Make use of whatever feedback an individual is capable of giving to assess comprehension.

### Comfort with Material

- It is important to convey a positive message about sexuality to build self-esteem.
- Preview all materials before using.
- Treat sexuality as a normal, natural part of life.
- Clarify that (yours and their) embarrassment is likely due to modesty, not shame.
- Admit when you don't know something.
- Make use of resources to supplement your own knowledge.

### Ability to Address Questions

- Being 'askable' will encourage interaction and will help gauge the effectiveness of your teaching.
- Validate the person asking the question.
- Clarify what is being asked.
- Address what is being asked.
- Provide factual information and a range of beliefs.
- Refer to alternative sources of information in the individual's family or community.

### Ability to Respond Effectively to Inappropriate Behaviour

- Give a non-emotional response.
- Clearly identify why the behaviour is inappropriate.
- If possible, ask why the behaviour is happening instead of prescribing a reason.
- Offer an alternative to the behaviour.
- Be consistent and repetitive with interventions.