

Handout 2

PROGRAM INFORMATION MEETING

OUR WHOLE LIVES PHILOSOPHY AND GOALS

The *Our Whole Lives: Sexuality Education for Grades 4–6* program nurtures and supports the “three Rs” of childhood sexuality education—respect, relationships, and responsibility—by helping children gain self-respect and respect for others, build relationships with people of all genders and with many kinds of families, and understand their responsibilities regarding their own health and that of others.

The messages that children receive through touch, talk, and behavior affect their future attitudes, values, and actions. This curriculum helps participants integrate the values of the program with their own system of values within an open, affirming, and anti-bias environment and a community of trust, confidentiality, and authenticity.

The goals of the Our Whole Lives program for this age group are:

- to strengthen and support each child’s sense of self and self-esteem
- to help children understand the place of sexuality in human life and loving relationships
- to encourage children to appreciate their bodies as good, beautiful, private, and special
- to provide children with accurate, developmentally appropriate information about human sexuality and relationships
- to prepare children for the changes they will typically experience as they grow and develop
- to help children develop interpersonal skills—including communication, decision making, and problem solving—that will help keep them safe and healthy
- to help children understand and interpret messages they receive about sexuality, especially through the media
- to help children learn to make responsible decisions that show respect for themselves and others
- to help families communicate openly
- to strengthen parents’/caregivers’ roles as their children’s most important sexuality educators