



Activity: 5-6.3.1

Key Messages

- It is important to use the correct terminology for reproductive parts and processes.
- Some parts of our bodies are private.

Activity Details

Victorian Curriculum

Health & PE Investigate resources to manage changes and transitions associated with puberty VCHPEP106

Time 20 minutes

Levels 5 & 6

Equipment • whiteboard and markers

Naming it right

Purpose

To teach the correct terminology for male and female reproductive anatomy.

To ensure the students are aware that these are private parts of their bodies that no one else has the right to touch.

Teaching notes

This is a fun activity which is often met with much laughter and embarrassment. However, it is important that students can name their body parts for a number of reasons, as outlined in the activity. Being able to do so is also a known protective factor against child abuse.

Procedure

1. Tell the students that you will be writing some correct reproductive terms on the board. Their job is to tell you all the slang words they know for that body part.
2. Ensure the students understand that this is a safe environment in which they can say the slang words and that they will not be in trouble for doing so.
3. One by one, write the following words across the board and ask for responses to each word. Record the slang words underneath: 'penis', 'breast', 'testicles', 'vagina', 'erection', 'arms' and 'ears'.
4. Inform the students that after this activity, during class time, correct terminology for human reproductive anatomy will always be used.

Discussion

Class discussion could include some of the following questions:

- Why did I put in words like arm and ears?
- Why are there no slang words for these body parts?
- Why are there lots of different names for the other body parts on our list?
- Why are people uncomfortable saying the correct word when it relates to reproductive parts?
- When might it be appropriate to use slang words? (e.g. telling a joke, talking with friends).
- When is it inappropriate? (e.g. in a classroom, at the doctor).

Adapted with permission from Kokonis, A and Maginness, K 1996, *Teaching sexuality: a comprehensive activity-based resource*, HarperSchools, North Blackburn, Vic.

