



# Health and Family Life Education

for primary level



**Author and advisor team:**

Fortuna Anthony • Jenelle Babb • Pauline Bain • Hermione Baptiste • Vindra Cassie  
Gerard Drakes • Clare Eastland • Mavis Fuller • Janice Ho Lung • Sharlene Johnson  
Elaine King • Louise Lawrence-Rose • Nordia McIntosh-Vassell • Heather Richards  
Glenda Rolle • Gina Sanguinetti Phillips • Rebecca Tortello • Esther Utoh • Pat Warner

Macmillan Education  
4 Crinan Street, London, N1 9XW  
A division of Macmillan Publishers Limited

Companies and representatives throughout the world.

[www.macmillan-caribbean.com](http://www.macmillan-caribbean.com)

ISBN 978-0-230-47605-9

Text © Clare Eastland, Mavis Fuller, Janice Ho Lung, Sharlene Johnson, Nordia McIntosh-Vassell, Gina Sanguinetti Phillips, 2015

Design and illustration © Macmillan Publishers Limited 2015

The authors have asserted their rights to be identified as the authors of this work in accordance with the Copyright, Design and Patents Act 1988.

First published 2015

All rights reserved; no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, transmitted in any form, or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the publishers.

Designed by Macmillan Education  
Illustrated by Andrew Magee and Mark Draisey  
Cover design by Andrew Magee Design Ltd.  
Cover illustration by Mark Draisey  
Typeset by EXPO Holdings

The publishers and author team would like to thank Fortuna Anthony, Jenelle Babb, Hermione Baptiste, Vindra Cassie, Gerard Drakes, Elaine King, Glenda Rolle, Rebecca Tortello, Esther Utoh and Pat Warner for their invaluable help and advice at every stage of this series.

These materials may contain links for third party websites. We have no control over, and are not responsible for, the contents of such third party websites. Please use care when accessing them.

Although we have tried to trace and contact copyright holders before publication, in some cases this has not been possible. If contacted we will be pleased to rectify any errors or omissions at the earliest opportunity.

Note to Teachers

Photocopies may be made, for classroom use, of pages 141–161 without the prior written permission of Macmillan Publishers Limited. However, please note that the copyright law, which does not normally permit multiple copying of published material, applies to the rest of this book.

# Contents

<b>Foreword</b>	4
<b>Part 1 All about teaching Health and Family Life Education (HFLE)</b>	6
<b>1 Introduction to the HFLE Course</b>	6
<b>2 Teaching life skills</b>	12
What are life skills?	12
How to teach life skills	12
Some important life skills	16
<b>3 Teaching HFLE</b>	29
Teaching methods for HFLE	29
Lesson planning for HFLE	36
Evaluation and assessment	37
Creating a safe classroom environment for HFLE	41
Dealing with difficult issues and sensitive topics in the classroom	44
The teacher's own values and attitudes	46
Involving parents	46
<b>4 Background and resources for the four themes</b>	49
<b>Part 2 Teacher's notes to accompany Student's Book 4 and Activity Book 4</b>	81
Self and Interpersonal Relationships theme	82
Sexuality and Sexual Health theme	96
Eating and Fitness theme	116
Managing the Environment theme	123
<b>Answers for Activity Book 4</b>	139
<b>Life skills steps for students – photocopy masters</b>	140
<b>Glossary</b>	162

# Foreword

Increasingly in the Caribbean, the changing realities of the socio-economic landscape have placed additional pressures on adults, children and young people, influencing their behaviours and putting their lives and health at risk. We are all faced with a plethora of new technologies, including social media, which very often promote and perpetuate perspectives at odds with cultural norms. The economic downturn in many of our Member States has also influenced the rates of unemployment and migration, which can have adverse effects on the family. Lifestyles, attitudes and values are changing. These changes have led to an increase in new health threats, especially obesity and other lifestyle-related diseases, neglect, unintended pregnancy, HIV infection, various forms of abuse, violence and substance misuse.

Current child development theories emphasise the acquisition of social competencies as a critical element in the holistic development of children and adolescents. It has become very clear that, in order seriously to address the numerous problems and challenges that young people in the Caribbean encounter on a daily basis, education systems in the region need to develop and implement curricula that respond to these changes and provide them with the requisite knowledge, skills and attitudes to make healthy and productive lifestyle choices and to become well-adjusted and contributing 'Ideal Caribbean Citizens'.

At the Sixth Special Meeting of the Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD) on Education held in Trinidad and Tobago in April 2003, the Council, realising the significant contribution that Health and Family Life Education (HFLE) could make to help young people develop skills, to build competencies and adopt positive behaviours, endorsed the modification of the knowledge-based regional HFLE curriculum to a Life-Skills based HFLE Regional Curriculum Framework.

This revised CARICOM HFLE Curriculum Framework has been introduced in primary and secondary schools in most Member States, and provides that body of knowledge and life skills that will help to address the multiplicity of psycho-social and emotional problems and challenges that our youngest citizens face and have to cope with. It is intended that our Caribbean children and adolescents will not only acquire accurate knowledge and explore positive values and attitudes, but also develop social, interpersonal, emotional, coping and cognitive skills.

In schools throughout the region, the HFLE programme is the medium through which our teachers can impact and reinforce the positive behaviours that our young people are expected to adopt and display. It is imperative, therefore, that teachers are adequately trained and prepared to effectively deliver the curriculum to achieve the desired outcomes. The success of the HFLE programme depends on this and also on a supportive environment. It is in this regard that the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) welcomes the Macmillan Teacher's Guides for primary levels.

These Teacher's Guides, which are based on the CARICOM HFLE Primary School Curriculum, set out the objectives and standards for teaching, and identify the desired knowledge, skills and behavioural outcomes for students. They also provide teachers with interactive teaching methodologies, materials and resources to deliver the four thematic areas: Self and Interpersonal Relationships, Sexuality and Sexual Health, Appropriate Eating and Fitness and Managing the Environment. Unit themes and the content are responsive to the many health and social challenges that our young people experience in the region.

## FOREWORD

I wish to encourage primary schools in our Member States to utilise these Teacher's Guides, which can serve as useful resources and teaching tools for HFLE teachers at primary level. I commend Macmillan Education for their educational materials developed over the years for the Caribbean, but especially for making these HFLE Teacher's Guides for primary available for use in our schools. The CARICOM Secretariat is pleased to be associated with this material, which will strengthen the HFLE programme, an initiative in which our Member States and our Regional and International Partners have also invested so much.

Douglas Slater, M.D., M.P.H.  
Assistant Secretary-General  
Directorate of Human and Social Development  
CARICOM

# Part 1 All about teaching Health and Family Life Education (HFLE)

## 1 Introduction to the HFLE Course



### Background

The Macmillan HFLE course addresses the needs of kindergarten and primary students and teachers for life-skills based materials to help children learn to cope with some of the challenges facing Caribbean societies today, including rising levels of violence, health and environmental problems.

These materials grew out of the recognition of a need within Caribbean schools for a course to teach life skills and HIV prevention. The course follows *the CARICOM Health and Family Life Education Regional Curriculum Framework Ages 5 years to 12 years*, and also early years' national curricula from the region.

The author and advisory team comprises experienced Caribbean HFLE teachers and educators, some with specialist interests in each of the four themes. Between them they have experience as professional writers, teacher trainers, curriculum developers, guidance counsellors and Ministry HFLE co-ordinators. Some have been involved in developing and implementing their own national HFLE syllabuses, others have helped to develop the University of the West Indies Open Campus Diploma course for HFLE teachers. All are passionately committed to Health and Family Life Education. They come from around the Caribbean region, including Antigua, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago, and from UNESCO and UNICEF.

### The CARICOM Regional Curriculum Framework and regional syllabuses

The Macmillan Primary HFLE course has been written to follow the *CARICOM Health and Family Life Education Regional Curriculum*

*Framework* set out by the CARICOM Multi-Agency Health and Family Life Education (HFLE) Project set up by the Standing Committee of the Ministers of Education, with funding and assistance from UNICEF, UNESCO, EDC, the World Bank and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. The *CARICOM Health and Family Life Education Regional Curriculum Framework Ages 5 years to 12 years* was launched in 2009.

The Curriculum Framework for ages 5 to 12 has been largely adopted by many countries in the region and incorporated within their own Education Ministry syllabuses. The authors have covered this curriculum framework and its life skills, regional standards and core outcomes to meet the needs of kindergarten and primary students, and also to incorporate aspects of country-specific syllabuses for early years and primary.

The Macmillan course follows the four themes of the CARICOM Curriculum Framework: Self and Interpersonal Relationships, Sexuality and Sexual Health, Appropriate Eating and Fitness and Managing the Environment, and attempts to meet the relevant regional standards (see *Health and Family Life Education Regional Curriculum Framework 2009 Ages 5 years to 12 years*).

### Course components

The Macmillan Primary HFLE course comprises seven levels: Kindergarten and Levels 1 to 6. There is a combined Student's and Activity Book for Kindergarten, and Student's Books and Activity Books for each of Levels 1 to 6. Each level contains four themes and approximately 30 topics or units, each topic being about one 45-minute lesson. So each book contains approximately enough material for one lesson per week for one school year. Topics include

## INTRODUCTION TO THE HFLE COURSE

factual information or stimulus material, and different types of activities – individual, pair, group and class. They encourage students to reflect on and discuss the issues.

There are accompanying Teacher's Guides available online for each level, with one Introduction common to lower primary, Levels K to 3, and another for upper primary, Levels 4 to 6. See the Macmillan website <http://www.macmillan-caribbean.com>

The Teacher's Guides are designed to help teachers use the course effectively and easily. They provide background information on HFLE and some of the issues, but also, more importantly, advice and practical suggestions for HFLE planning, teaching and assessment including teaching life skills, and detailed suggestions for teaching each unit.

The course can be used within dedicated Health and Family Life Education subject lessons, when HFLE is integrated with other subjects, or with form groups, guidance and counselling lessons or after school clubs.

### Teaching approaches

The CARICOM Curriculum Framework sets out an approach to teaching and learning life skills which is student-centred, interactive and participatory. The course uses illustrations, mini-stories, case studies and other stimulus material, discussion, personal reflection, role play and other activities to build on students' own experience and encourage them to develop their values and life skills, and to take an active role in their communities. For more details of teaching approaches see pages 29–36.

The course takes a human rights perspective which can hold good for students (and teachers) of any religion or denomination, or none. Moral issues are frequently encountered in HFLE and can be discussed from religious viewpoints, but this human rights approach provides a foundation set of values to help students build healthy attitudes and values regardless of their religious affiliations, and encourages respect in multi-ethnic classrooms. Helping students to develop their own values

is an important part of Health and Family Life Education.

The course takes a life-skills approach – seeking to gradually build a set of life skills using the various themes and through the kindergarten and primary years (see pages 12–28).

### Behaviour change

Research has shown that for attitude and behaviour change to take place in areas of health such as healthy eating, fitness or hygiene, children need to have three things: **motivation** (usually stemming from feelings of self-worth and goal setting), accurate **information** (such as the correct information about different foods) and **skills** (they need to know the steps to follow in life skills such as communication, assertiveness, self-management and problem-solving, and to practise them in the classroom and then outside, so they feel confident to use them in real situations).

So, looking at an example of behaviour change such as resisting peer pressure to smoke, a student needs to be **motivated** to resist – have one or more personal reasons to resist, such as saving money (with a goal such as an alternative use for that money, for example to save up for a cell phone), or for health reasons (for some specific end, for example to avoid bad breath or lung cancer later). They need to have or be able to access accurate **information** about the best ways to resist, and consider this critically. They need to have the **life skills** to be able to resist their peers, for example self-awareness (of own health, what cigarettes would do to their health/budget), decision-making skills (deciding not to smoke and maintaining the decision), healthy self-management skills (valuing self and looking after their body), coping with emotions (hurt and possible rejection by peers for not fitting in), refusal skills (when offered a cigarette by a friend), communication skills (communicating their decision not to smoke), and others.

A number of theories of behaviour change can help us understand this complex issue which is so important in aspects of healthy living such as

preventing obesity, drug taking or early sexual activity. It used to be thought that if people were given the correct information, then they would change their behaviour. However it has now been realised that because choices about health and relationships are complex decisions, education has also to provide skills and take into account the socio-cultural factors which influence individuals.

A brief summary of the three main types of behaviour change theories is given below.

### Theories focused on the individual

Individual theories focus on perceptions of risk, and beliefs about the effectiveness and benefits of the new behaviour. Some theories suggest that in order to change behaviour a person needs to have both information and a change of attitude. Other theories are based on people's ability to reason and think through the benefits of change for themselves, commitment to change, taking action and communication.

### Social theories

In many cases people's behaviour is not based on clear reasons or attitudes and not well thought through. Social theories look at the wider context in which the individual is acting – the social, cultural and economic context and particularly the influence of peers or community. Young people, in particular, are influenced by their peers (peer pressure) and their behaviour can be changed by slightly older role models. Other social theories include the influences of respected individuals in a community and gender relations between men and women.

### Social change theories

Some theories suggest that behaviour change comes from empowering individuals, groups, organisations and communities to change their communities, environment and society.

Environmental and economic theories suggest that behaviours are the result of the social environment and economic factors such as poverty.

### The importance of participatory learning

Participatory or interactive methods are crucial for the teaching and learning of HFLE. Research has also shown that participatory methods not only help students to know what to do, but also to internalise skills and actually change their behaviours. There are two important aspects to this. Firstly, as students role-play or otherwise act out, mentally or verbally, the life skills they are being taught, this rehearsal or practice helps them to internalise or retain the behaviours. Secondly, as they learn healthy behaviours together with their peers, in pairs, groups or as a class, they take these on as peer group norms and learn from each other. See Teaching methods for HFLE, pages 29–35.

### The role of the teacher

The teacher's role in this course is one of facilitator. The teacher does not need to know all the background information – for example the detailed science of the causes of global warming. However, the teacher must make sure that the information given to students is accurate and age-appropriate. The Student's Books and activities should enable students to address the issues that affect them. If there are unanswered questions, or more information is needed, then students can research these, or teachers can seek additional information. Some background information to the four themes is presented on pages 49–80 and web links are provided on pages 50, 58, 68 and 80.

Teachers need to help students in setting up a safe classroom for discussion (see page 41), organising appropriate activities, bringing out important points and thinking through the issues. They will need to help students in deciding on appropriate action and carrying it out. They will also need to organise and facilitate the learning of life skills (see pages 12–28), using interactive methods in order to be effective. Life skills education cannot be taught effectively through 'chalk and talk'. Teachers cannot lecture students about life skills and expect any development of values, life skills or behaviour change; participatory methods are essential.



## INTRODUCTION TO THE HFLE COURSE

Teachers have other roles as well. They need to model, or explicitly demonstrate, particular life skills. They should also act as role models for healthy behaviour in general. In order to deliver effective HFLE classes and deal with some of the sensitive issues that will arise, teachers need to develop their own self-awareness, empathy and communication skills. They need to be sensitive to their students and the issues and problems which they may bring to the classroom. They need to offer support and encouragement inside the classroom. They also need to know when to refer students to the guidance and counselling teacher or help them to get other outside help. All students need to feel valued as individuals with the right to have their own opinion. At the same time, they also need to demonstrate a willingness to respect and listen to the views of others.

Teachers do not need to feel that they are alone in this task. Within the school, HFLE teachers need to form strong teams to support each other, discuss issues and share resources and ideas, learning together to improve their competence. A team approach for planning, preparation and delivery will share the load and be most effective.

It is also important to collaborate with parents and the wider community (see page 36 and 46–47). Building connections with other agencies, such as social services and health clinics, will provide support and resources. Teachers can plan activities that deliberately engage parents, getting them involved in small projects, assignments, and so on. Students can be encouraged to share their Activity Books with their parents or guardians. See *Involving parents*, pages 46–47.

There will be times however, when all the intervention used at school and in the community may not be meeting the individual's needs. This is when referral to social services, a psychologist or psychiatrist may be necessary and important.

### **A whole school approach**

A whole school approach is critical to the success of the HFLE programme. Every adult

who is involved with the school needs to know and accept that the HFLE programme is wholesome, necessary, relevant and important. You will need their full understanding and support as partners as you implement the different aspects of the programme. First, enlist the support of your school board, sponsors, administrators and staff including cleaners, handymen, security guards, cooks and persons who provide food to the school. Then have discussions with parents, guardians, caregivers and community leaders, disclosing the purpose and content of the themes. As you establish these partnerships, you will want to ensure that everyone will help to reinforce the HFLE messages and will avoid the introduction of contradictory messages.

Some practical implications/out-workings of an HFLE programme include providing balanced meals at school and encouraging children to try small amounts of foods that they don't usually eat. If possible, teachers should eat at the same time as the children and model acceptable behaviours like eating fruits and vegetables, and drinking water instead of sweet drinks. The whole school approach therefore becomes 'a way of being and living'. It requires awareness at all times and should facilitate the integration of every aspect of the HFLE programme into the life of the school and community. So, sound information and healthy practices related to daily exercise, care of the environment, sexuality and sexual health, and positive interpersonal relationships, should become the norm.

### **Resources**

*CARICOM HFLE Regional Curriculum Framework 2009 Ages 5 to 12 years*  
[http://www.unicef.org/barbados/UNICEF\\_HFLE\\_Ages\\_5-12.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/barbados/UNICEF_HFLE_Ages_5-12.pdf)

*Primary Health and Family Life Education (H.F.L.E.) Curriculum*  
COURSE OUTLINE LEVEL TWO – Ministry of Education, Trinidad and Tobago  
[http://www.moe.gov.tt/Curriculum\\_pdfs/HFLE\\_Curriculum\\_Primary.pdf](http://www.moe.gov.tt/Curriculum_pdfs/HFLE_Curriculum_Primary.pdf)

## PART 1 ALL ABOUT TEACHING HFLE

Regional Health and Family Life Education (HFLE) Curriculum  
<http://hhd.org/resources/curriculum/regional-health-and-family-life-education-hfle-curriculum-framework-ages-9-14>

Health and Family Life Education Sample Lessons  
<http://www.Health and Family Life Education-Sample ... -Ministry of Education>

Health and Family Life Education Common Curriculum  
<http://tinyurl.com/lzrcvn8>

*Health and Family Life Education: Teacher's Guide*  
[http://hivhealthclearinghouse.unesco.org/search/format\\_long.php?lang=en&ret=topics.php&fiche=7333](http://hivhealthclearinghouse.unesco.org/search/format_long.php?lang=en&ret=topics.php&fiche=7333)

*Health & Family Life Education Regional Curriculum Framework, Ages 9–14 years*  
<http://hhd.org/resources/curriculum/regional-health-and-family-life-education-hfle-curriculum-framework-ages-9-14>

Report of UNICEF trialling secondary HFLE self and sexuality themes: *Strengthening Health and Family Life Education in the Region*  
[http://www.unicef.org/easterncaribbean/Final\\_HFLE.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/easterncaribbean/Final_HFLE.pdf)

*Health and Family Life Education Teacher Training Manual*  
[http://hivaidsclearinghouse.unesco.org/search/resources/bie\\_hfle\\_training\\_manual.pdf](http://hivaidsclearinghouse.unesco.org/search/resources/bie_hfle_training_manual.pdf)

*HFLE Teacher Training Manual*, 2011.  
<http://www.unicef.org>

Health and Family Life Education – National Family Planning Board  
<http://www.jnfpb.org/guidance/FLE%20Information%20Package.pdf>

Macmillan Caribbean HFLE Course (Secondary)  
<http://tinyurl.com/139aeej>

### **Further information about theories relating to social change and other theoretical models**

*Sexual Behavioural Change for HIV: Where have the theories taken us?*  
<http://www.UNAIDS.org>

*Behaviour Change and HIV Prevention: Reconsiderations for the 21st century*  
<http://www.globalhivprevention.org>

*Behavior Change: A summary of four major theories*  
<http://www.fhi360.org/resource/behavior-change-four-major-theories>

PAHO: *Life Skills Approach to Child and Adolescent Healthy Human Development*.  
Authors: Leena Mangrulkar, Cheryl Vince Whitman, Marc Posner  
[http://hhd.org/sites/hhd.org/files/paho\\_lifeskills.pdf](http://hhd.org/sites/hhd.org/files/paho_lifeskills.pdf)

Behavior Change Theories – California State Polytechnic University ...  
[http://www.csupomona.edu/~jvgrizzell/best\\_practices/bcttheory.html](http://www.csupomona.edu/~jvgrizzell/best_practices/bcttheory.html)

### **Other links about HFLE**

*Preventing HIV/AIDS in Young People: A systematic review of the evidence from developing countries*. WHO Technical Report Series: 938  
<http://tinyurl.com/ctp5z4d>

UNICEF. *Health & Family Life Education ... 10 Years & Beyond*. 2000, vol. 2, Children in Focus.  
[http://www.unicef.org/easterncaribbean/cao\\_publications\\_cifhfle2.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/easterncaribbean/cao_publications_cifhfle2.pdf)

## INTRODUCTION TO THE HFLE COURSE

*Health and Family Life Education: Empowering children and adolescents in Belize with the knowledge and skills for healthy living.* July 2006. Adapted from HFLE Draft Teacher Training Manual.

[http://hivaidsclearinghouse.unesco.org/search/resources/bie\\_hfle\\_resource\\_guide\\_teachers.pdf](http://hivaidsclearinghouse.unesco.org/search/resources/bie_hfle_resource_guide_teachers.pdf)

Health and Family Life Education TEACHER TRAINING MANUAL

[http://hhd.org/sites/hhd.org/files/hfle\\_teacher\\_training\\_manual.pdf](http://hhd.org/sites/hhd.org/files/hfle_teacher_training_manual.pdf)

### **Best practice**

*A Research Project ... about implementing the Health and Family Life Education programme*

<http://tinyurl.com/oaj982c>

UNICEF – Life skills – The Caribbean Project

[http://www.unicef.org/lifeskills/index\\_12020.html](http://www.unicef.org/lifeskills/index_12020.html)

Evaluation of the Health and Family Life Pilot Curriculum – UNICEF. Authors: Martin Henry, Joan Black. 2006

[http://www.unicef.org/jamaica/resources\\_9096.html](http://www.unicef.org/jamaica/resources_9096.html)

## 2 Teaching life skills

Research evaluating health education programmes shows that those based on life skills promote healthy lifestyles and reduce risky behaviours. There are three findings of importance to teachers:

1. Health education is more likely to be successful if it develops life skills for making healthy choices, as well as giving accurate information and addressing attitudes and values.
2. Life skills are more likely to be used effectively for healthy behaviour if they are taught and practised in the context of a particular health issue or choice.
3. Life skills are more likely to be learnt if students are actively involved in learning and participatory teaching methods are used.

(Source: UNESCO/UNICEF/WHO/The World Bank, 2000; Tobler, 1998 Draft; WHO, 1997; WHO/UNFPA/UNICEF, 1995; Burt, 1998; Vince Whitman et al., 2001)

### What are life skills?

The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines life skills as: 'abilities which help us to adapt and to behave positively so that we can deal effectively with the challenges of everyday life'.

These are the skills that children and young people need to understand themselves and their environment and to develop the confidence to make good choices and take positive action for their own health and well-being. Life skills education develops the individual students and helps to give them control over their lives. It also helps students to develop moral and democratic values important for today's citizens, such as respect for gender equality, human rights and the rule of law, and the ideals of environmental protection and sustainable development.

Life skills include: problem-solving, decision-making, critical thinking, creative thinking, communication, negotiating, assertiveness, managing interpersonal relationships, empathy, self-awareness, coping with stress, and coping with emotions.

The WHO has grouped the most important life skills into five core areas:

- Decision-making and problem-solving
- Critical and creative thinking
- Communication and interpersonal relationships
- Self-awareness and empathy
- Coping with stress and coping with emotion

The CARICOM Framework groups life skills into three overarching types:

- Emotional/coping skills (self-awareness, self-monitoring, healthy self-management, coping with emotions)
- Social skills (communication – listening and speaking, interpersonal skills, assertiveness, negotiation, refusal, empathy, co-operation, advocacy)
- Cognitive skills (critical thinking, creative thinking, problem-solving, decision-making).

Many of these skills have sub-skills, for example self-management may include help-seeking, self-esteem, self-confidence, self-monitoring and goal setting skills; communication may include conflict resolution and refusal skills. Some skills overlap more than one category, for example negotiation may be a communication skill and also an important coping skill.

### How to teach life skills

It is most important when we teach Health and Family Life Education that we give students the skills they need in order to be able to make healthy choices and carry them through into healthy behaviour.

Research has shown that in order to teach life skills successfully, it is best to:

- be explicit about what skills you are teaching
- help students to be aware of the skills needed and how and when to employ them
- discuss the skills

## HOW TO TEACH LIFE SKILLS

- practise those skills
- teach the skills within a suitable context or scenario.

Throughout the course units, three life skills are identified in each unit. They are also shown in the teacher's notes of each unit in Part 2 of this Teacher's Guide. These are not the only skills you could teach or practise from the units, but are intended as a guide for students and teachers. One of the three skills appears in **bold** and is the **dominant life skill** – the one it is recommended that you use that unit to teach and/or practise. We have identified a dominant life skill because it has been found that it is best to concentrate on one skill in each lesson, even if others are also used. However, you do not have to teach the dominant life skill in any unit – depending on your students' needs, you may decide to teach or practise other life skills. The content or topics of the units provide the contexts for teaching the skills.

Each life skill is made up of key steps, but these can vary with the age and abilities of the children. We have not included the key steps for each life skill within the unit, for lack of space and avoidance of repetition, but they can be found in the section below and also on pages 141–161 in a photocopyable form for use in the classroom. They also appear for student's reference in some Student's Book and Activity Book units. Teachers may need or want to simplify or otherwise adapt the key steps for their students. By Level 4 students may be able to cope with four or five steps, and by Level 6 with more detailed or longer steps.

It is intended that over the course students will become familiar with the main steps of each skill and gradually be able to refine their understanding and execution of the skills. It is also intended that they will gradually become more competent at role-playing the skills and more able to use them in contexts outside the classroom. As students become more familiar with the skills, encourage them to decide for themselves which skills are most useful or appropriate in a given context or situation.

### **Read the following section carefully and then refer back to it as you prepare for lessons.**

You will need to decide which skill or skills to teach or emphasise in any one unit, depending on the needs and experience of your students. To begin with, in Book 4, if your students do not have much previous experience of life skills, you will need to teach each life skill explicitly and ask students to practise. The material in the units provides you with the context in which to do this. As you progress through Books 5 and 6 you should find that students will remember the earlier key steps and processes for the life skills and you can ask them to apply them to different contexts and problems as you work through the material. You can also develop them and introduce further steps. Gradually they should then be able to apply these skills to their own real life situations and problems.

It is important to introduce and begin to teach all the life skills as early as possible, so that students gain sufficient practice through the primary school. Students need to be so comfortable with the skills that they internalise them and transfer them to life's situations as they grow older.

The life skill you decide to teach in any particular lesson will depend on the needs of your students and the content area. Specific life skills can be tied in to developing healthy behaviours in particular contexts or situations. For example, if you want to develop students' behaviours to eat healthy foods, this might include:

- Self-awareness of what they eat now
- Critical thinking applied to their current food choices
- Decision-making about what foods to choose
- Goal setting with regard to eating behaviours
- Negotiation with parents about food brought for eating at school
- Resistance to peer pressure to eat unhealthy snacks.

## Core life skills and possible contexts

Skills	Possible contexts
<b>Emotional/coping and self-management skills</b>	
self-esteem, self-confidence building	talents, abilities, likes and dislikes, strengths and weaknesses, values, friends and family relationships, goal setting and ideas about future careers
self-awareness	my body, personal hygiene, strengths and weaknesses, talents, likes and dislikes, friends and family relationships, setting goals, values, eating and fitness, coping with stress, gender differences, feelings towards the opposite gender, emotions such as anger, my environment, my actions which affect the environment
self-monitoring	my body, personal hygiene, eating and fitness, coping with stress, loss and anger, conflict situations, environmental awareness
healthy self-management, including goal setting	my body, personal hygiene, eating and fitness, coping with stress, sexual relationships (at an age-appropriate level), alcohol, smoking and drugs, relationships at school, loss and anger, conflict situations, environmental management (e.g. litter)
coping with emotions, including coping with stress	friends and family relationships, peer pressure, sexual relationships (at an age-appropriate level), loss and anger, conflict situations, bullying
<b>Communication and interpersonal skills</b>	
communication – listening and speaking	friends and family relationships, peer pressure, sexual relationships (at an age-appropriate level), relationships at school, conflict situations
interpersonal relations	friends and family relationships, peer pressure, relationships at school, conflict situations
assertiveness	talents, likes and dislikes, strengths and weaknesses, gender differences, values, peer pressure, friends and family relationships, sexual relationships (at an age-appropriate level), alcohol, smoking and drugs, career choices, community issues
negotiation	peer pressure, friends and family relationships, eating and fitness, community issues, conflict situations, environmental issues
refusal skills	eating and fitness, peer pressure, sexual relationships (at an age-appropriate level, e.g. saying 'no' to abuse), alcohol, smoking and drugs
empathy	friends and family relationships, caring for others, such as people living with HIV or AIDS (PLWHA), the elderly, the very young and the disadvantaged in the community, victims of violence and abuse

## HOW TO TEACH LIFE SKILLS

co-operation and teamwork	friends and family relationships, relationships at school, working together at school, community issues
advocacy	caring for others, such as PLWHA, the elderly, the very young and the disadvantaged in the community, environmental issues, community issues
<b>Cognitive skills</b>	
critical thinking	peer pressure, media influence, sexual relationships (at an age-appropriate level), alcohol, smoking and drugs, environmental issues
creative thinking	caring for others, such as PLWHA, the elderly, the very young and the disadvantaged in the community, advocacy, environmental issues, community issues, conflict situations
problem-solving	sexual relationships (at an age-appropriate level), alcohol, smoking and drugs, environmental issues, community issues, family situations and conflict
decision-making	eating and fitness, sexual relationships (at an age-appropriate level), alcohol, smoking and drugs, setting goals and values, environmental issues, community issues
goal setting	eating and fitness, friends and family relationships, alcohol, smoking and drugs, future careers, environmental issues, community issues

Many of the above skills, such as cognitive skills and communications skills, can be applied to almost any context. In any one lesson you will only be able to focus on learning and practising one, or occasionally two, skills, but try to make sure by careful planning that students are exposed to the full range of skills over the year, with more time spent on those which are most needed.

Once students become aware of the range of skills available to them, they may be able to think about the skills they will need in a particular context, if they want to keep safe, change their behaviours or behave in a healthy way in the future.

Once you have identified the skill or skills you want to concentrate on in a lesson, you will need to break them down for the students. This means translating the skill into specific key steps or parts for the students. Teachers should model or demonstrate these steps clearly. We have given examples of this for you in the next few pages, by providing the full steps for each

skill for the teacher, and a simplified version for students. Photocopiable key steps are available on pages 141–161. Keep in mind that the specific steps or parts may vary with the context and also with the developmental level of the students. Feel free to simplify the steps further or to make them more detailed, using the steps for teachers as a guide, depending on your students' needs and abilities.

You will also need to choose appropriate activities to practise these steps. Some of these appear in the activities in the Student's Books and Activity Books, but you will sometimes need to add your own, depending on which life skill you are teaching or practising, and on the students' needs.

Teaching and developing life skills involves broadly three stages:

1. Identifying the objectives.
  - Begin by identifying the skills which are essential or most important for influencing a



specific behaviour, e.g. healthy eating. What do you want the students to be able to do after they have learnt the skill?

- Ask students to give you examples of how the skills might be used.
  - Model the skill for the students and discuss this with them.
  - Let them try out the skill orally or in role play. Correct any misconceptions. Give feedback.
2. Developing and practising skills.
- Provide opportunities to observe the skill being carried out well. Model or demonstrate the skill.
  - Provide activities for students to practise the skill.
  - Evaluate and re-teach if necessary. Give feedback and suggestions for improvement.
  - Help students to evaluate their learning.
3. Maintaining skills and using them more widely.
- Provide activities for personal practice outside the classroom.
  - Help students to evaluate their own performance and learn from their experiences.

(Adapted from WHO series on School Health Life Skills, Doc 9, 2003)

**Stages for the teacher**

1	Choose the skill or context.
2	Choose the context or skill to match.
3	Identify the key steps.
4	Discuss with the students.
5	Model/demonstrate the skill.
6	Students practise the skill in class.
7	Evaluate, reflect and re-teach/improve.
8	Personal practice outside the classroom.
9	Reflect, evaluate experience.

**Some important life skills**

For each life skill, the section below provides: a definition or explanation, why it is important, how you can teach it and the key steps or parts into which it can be broken down. The steps here are first written for teachers' understanding, **not** for use with students in upper primary (see also page 15). Underneath in the box is a translation and simplification of each set of steps into language which might be more suitable for upper primary students.

**Emotional/coping and self-management skills**

**Self-esteem**

**Definition:** It is debatable whether self-esteem is really a life skill. Self-esteem is related to self-awareness. Self-esteem is how you feel about yourself, whether you are self-aware or not. It means how you value yourself and how you feel about your strengths and weaknesses. Self-esteem is built up from early childhood, as how others treat you affects how you think and feel.

**Importance:** Students with high self-esteem will feel more comfortable with themselves and others, and more confident.

**How:** You can help to build students' self-esteem by making them aware of their talents, good points and achievements, and encouraging them to acknowledge each other's strengths. Encourage them to try to succeed at new activities, as this will also build self-esteem. Develop a positive atmosphere in the classroom where all individuals are valued.

**Key steps for teachers**

- Recognise that you have good points; these may relate to any aspect of yourself – appearance, talents, personality traits, skills and abilities, physical, social, mental.
- Understand that other people value you, and why. Learn to accept positive comments.
- Understand that we all have weaknesses and things that we are not good at. Be kind to yourself.



## SOME IMPORTANT LIFE SKILLS

- Understand that we can all make a positive contribution to other people's lives and to our communities.
- Increase your self-confidence by attempting new activities or ways of doing things.
- Celebrate your achievements.

### Key steps for students

- What do I love/like/value about myself?
- What do other people love/like/value about me?
- I am good at ...
- How can I contribute?
- What do I have to celebrate?

### Self-confidence

**Definition:** Self-confidence is similar to self-esteem and relates to our feelings about our abilities to do things. Some students may have misplaced confidence in themselves, and other, less confident, students may actually be more able than they realise.

**Importance:** Self-confidence is helpful as it makes it easier to attempt new things and risk failure.

**How:** Build students' self-confidence by giving them small challenges, gradually building up their abilities, for example by encouraging shy students to present group findings or outgoing ones to work hard on their listening skills. Identify something which each member of the class excels at, and celebrate new achievements. The class can all celebrate (even by simple clapping) when one student achieves something they have not done before.

### Key steps for teachers

- Know your talents, strengths and achievements.
- Build on your ability to do things by setting yourself small challenges.
- Improve areas where you are weak.
- Try out new activities.
- Celebrate your achievements.

### Key steps for students

- I know my talents, strengths and achievements.
- I would like to be able to ...
- I can improve ...
- I can try something new.
- I can celebrate what I can do!

### Self-awareness

**Definition:** Self-awareness means having a sense of your own identity and an understanding of your emotions, attitudes, beliefs, values, goals, motivations and behaviours. It involves personality, values, habits, needs and emotions and knowing your strengths and weaknesses in these various areas.

**Importance:** Self-awareness helps us to understand our emotions and clarify our values so that we can communicate with others, form relationships and develop empathy. By knowing our strengths, we can improve our self-esteem and self-confidence. By knowing our weaknesses, we can make better decisions based on realistic expectations of what we can do, and look after ourselves more effectively.

**How:** Self-awareness can be achieved partly by students thinking about themselves, noting their own behaviours, emotions, etc., but also by asking or talking with others – friends, family and others such as teachers. It is useful to be aware of how others see us, even if that is not exactly how we see ourselves. So learning to be self-aware is partly reflective, and partly achieved by discussion, role play and other activities. We may also come to know ourselves better by doing new things, setting ourselves challenges, etc. Teachers should help students to develop their own values, by questioning, discussion and other activities. Teachers should take care not to impose their own values on students.

### Key steps for teachers

- Understand yourself and your personality. This can help you to know where you will be able to grow and be happy, and what you might find too stressful.

- Understand your needs. If you know what your needs are, then you can more easily try to meet them and you will better understand your behaviour.
- Understand your emotions. If you know your own feelings, what causes them, and how they affect your thoughts and actions, you are in a better position to manage them. You can understand what happens inside when you experience different emotions, and so have more control over them.
- Know what your values are. This will help you to achieve your most important goals.
- Know your habits. Some good habits increase your effectiveness. Bad habits may be harmful to relationships and prevent you from reaching your goals.
- Try to learn more about yourself every day. Reflect on new experiences.

### Key steps for students

- What makes me happy?
- What makes me sad or stressed?
- How do these feelings affect my behaviour?
- What is important to me? What do I value?
- What habits do I have?
- What have I learnt about myself today?

### Self-monitoring

**Definition:** This is similar to self-awareness (above), but is an ongoing activity. It means keeping a watch on yourself from day to day to check that all is well, physically, mentally, emotionally and socially.

**Importance:** It is important because it enables you to know quickly if things are not right and to do something about them, so keeping healthy.

**How:** Encourage students to take a couple of minutes each day (or even at the start of each HFLE lesson) to think about how they feel about the different aspects of themselves. You could focus on different aspects each lesson.

### Key steps for teachers

- Get to know yourself – your body, emotions and mind.
- Recognise when something isn't right.
- Take action, such as talking to someone, seeking help or taking exercise.

### Key steps for students

- How am I feeling today?
- How am I behaving today?
- What do I need? Recognise when something isn't right.
- What should I do? Where can I get help?

### Healthy self-management

**Definition:** This is similar to self-monitoring (above) but it means not only keeping a watch on yourself, but also coping with your emotions and managing your feelings and behaviours, and recognising when you may be at risk.

**Importance:** It is important that children learn to manage their emotions and behaviour in order to build healthy relationships.

**How:** Encourage children to reflect on their behaviour and what causes it, and to develop alternative, more appropriate or healthy ways of responding, for example in conflict situations.

### Key steps for teachers

- Get to know yourself, your emotions and behaviour.
- Recognise the consequences of your behaviour on your health, and on others.
- Choose behaviour to stay healthy.
- Take action to stay healthy.
- Evaluate the choice.

## SOME IMPORTANT LIFE SKILLS

### Key steps for students

- How do I feel and behave?
- How does my behaviour affect my health?
- What should I do to be healthy?
- Choose healthy behaviour.
- How has that choice helped or hurt me?

### Goal setting

**Definition:** This is the skill of setting goals for yourself. It can be used for setting personal goals over a lifetime, or for shorter term goals, or even for goals in a co-operative task, such as a campaign. Goals can be anything you desire. They increase motivation and give a sense of purpose.

**Importance:** Goal setting is important because it provides motivation for healthy behaviours such as avoiding the risks of HIV, and also helps students to focus on longer term achievements. Goals help you take control of your life, feel good about yourself and realise your potential.

**How:** Begin by asking students to set short-term goals – for the end of the day, or the week. Go through the process for them. Then get students to visualise themselves in the future and talk about how they might get there. It is helpful if the teacher can model this by sharing some personal goal setting (e.g., by the end of today I want to talk to each of you about ...) along with the things which may get in the way and how they are dealt with. Practise the key steps in class.

### Key steps for teachers

- Think about what you want in life.
- List, write down and visualise realistic, specific, detailed goals for the short term and the long term.
- Visualise the benefits of reaching your goals. Imagine yourself in that situation.
- Identify any obstacles – what might hold you back?
- Make a plan of action: the steps on the way, with a time line. It helps to work backwards.

- Monitor your progress and celebrate small achievements.
- Have a 'goal buddy' with whom you share your goals and your progress.
- Believe in yourself and don't give up.

### Key steps for students

- What do I want/need? (today/tomorrow/next week/when I grow up)
- Is it realistic?
- How much time do I have?
- Imagine getting to my goal.
- What steps will I take?
- Who can help me?
- What might stop me?
- How well am I doing?
- Celebrate each step.
- I can do it!

### Coping with emotions

**Definition:** Coping with our emotions or feelings means recognising the range of different emotions we experience, understanding how emotions affect behaviour, and coping with emotions in a way which maintains physical, mental and social health.

**Importance:** Managing emotions helps us to recognise our own emotions and those of other people and relate them to behaviour. It helps us to cope with negative feelings such as anger, frustration, fear and sadness in ourselves and others. It helps us to express our feelings in a healthy way, without resorting to violence. When negative emotions are repressed for a long time they can affect our mental and physical health. Managing our emotions also helps us to relate better to other people.

**How:** Help students to recognise and talk about different kinds of emotions, the situations which bring them about and healthy ways to express them. Encourage them to reflect on any difficulties they may have with expressing emotions such as anger. What could

they do about this? Can they take steps on their own or do they need to access help?

**Key steps for teachers**

- Try to identify, name and understand the emotions you experience.
- Think about what causes them and how you behave as a result.
- Does this behaviour have any good or bad effects for yourself or others?
- How could you manage your emotions better?

**Key steps for students**

- How am I feeling?
- Why am I feeling that way?
- How does the feeling make me behave?
- Does my behaviour affect me or others? Does it have good or bad effects?
- Can I change anything?

Coping with our emotions includes **coping with stress**.

**Coping with stress**

**Definition:** We experience stress in difficult situations in life such as when we experience loss of various kinds, or when we have to deal with bad situations which we cannot change, such as long-term illness or family problems. Other stressful situations include examinations, having too much to do in too little time, or when others reject or criticise us.

**Importance:** A small amount of pressure may motivate us, but managing stress means learning to recognise what we find stressful and also what helps us to cope and calms us down.

**How:** encourage students to discuss problems of stress and how they cope, and reflect on what they find helpful in coping with stress. Give them opportunities to experience new ways of relaxing or de-stressing. Let them exchange ideas for staying calm under pressure.

This may be particularly useful for students in Level 6 facing end of primary examinations.

**Key steps for teachers**

- Get to know yourself and what makes you feel stressed, so you can take action before it gets too bad.
- Recognise the signs in yourself which tell you you're stressed (e.g. feeling anxious, angry or emotional, headaches, difficulty sleeping)
- Get to know what helps you to cope or relax – everyone is different.
- Practise strategies for de-stressing so you know how to use them
- Avoid using drugs or alcohol to help – it never works.

**Key steps for students**

- What makes me feel stressed?
- What signs tell me I'm stressed?
- What helps me feel better?
- Who can I talk to?
- What should I avoid?

**Tips for coping with stress**

- Talk to someone about how you feel.
- Think positively – remind yourself of the good things in your life and your achievements.
- Try to work out what is causing your stress.
- Take a deep breath and count slowly to ten.
- Try to manage your time better.
- Spend some time doing things you enjoy, being with people you care about.
- Eat healthy food, take some exercise and try to get a good night's sleep.
- Spend time in the natural world – in a garden, at the beach, by a river or with a pet.

# Communication and interpersonal skills

## Communication

**Definition:** Effective communication is the ability to express ourselves and listen to others. It includes verbal and non-verbal expression (body language). Language includes not only the words we use, but also our tone, speed, volume and other aspects of speech. Being a good listener not only means hearing and understanding what the person is saying, but also being sensitive to their meaning, conveyed by body language, tone, etc. It also means providing feedback to show you are listening.

**Importance:** It allows us to give and get information of all sorts – factual, emotional and social. It includes negotiation, assertiveness and refusal skills and enables us to meet all our different needs better. It is crucial for good relationships.

**How:** Model good speaking and listening skills and provide lots of opportunities for practice and feedback.

### Key steps for teachers – Listening

- Listen to the words being said and observe the speaker's body language.
- Use body language to show you are attentive: turn towards and face the speaker, and make eye contact. Keep your arms unfolded. Nod your head to show you understand and give encouragement.
- Encourage them with words and phrases, such as 'I know what you mean', 'Yes' or 'I see'.
- Do not interrupt to tell stories or give information.
- Don't give the speaker advice or tell them what to do.
- Listen for the feelings behind the words or shown in the body language.
- Show you understand by saying, for example, 'You must be feeling ...' or 'That must have been ...'.

- Ask questions or restate what the speaker says in your own words to check that you have understood correctly. For example, by saying 'Do you mean ...?' or 'So you're saying ...'.
- Give your full attention to them – turn off your cell phone, do not be distracted by other things or people.

### Key steps for students – Listening

- Listen to the words.
- Look at the body language.
- Face the speaker and look them in the eyes.
- Encourage the speaker with nods and brief words.
- Check you have understood correctly.
- Do not interrupt.
- Give them your full attention.

### Key steps for teachers – Speaking

- Pick a time when both of you can focus on what's being said without distractions.
- Face the other person and make eye contact.
- Speak with a pleasant, even tone, do not shout, mumble or whine.
- Speak clearly and not too fast.
- Do not be demanding or bossy.
- Be respectful, do not put the other person down, even when you think they are wrong or stupid.
- Be confident and positive.
- Pay attention to their responses, the words and body language, to check if you've been heard.
- If things get heated or feelings are very strong, take a break to calm down.

**Key steps for students – Speaking**

- What message do I want to tell others?
- Pick a good time.
- Face the listener and look them in the eyes.
- Speak clearly and not too fast.
- Speak kindly and with respect.
- Do my voice and body say the same thing?
- Watch their responses.
- If necessary take a break to calm down.

**Interpersonal skills or relationship skills**

**Definition:** This is the ability to relate to other people in a positive and healthy way. This makes others feel safe and comfortable, and able to interact and express their views. It enables trust and includes recognising boundaries and breaking relationships.

**Importance:** This allows us to make and keep friends and other relationships, so it is important for our mental and emotional health. It helps us to co-operate with others and in team work and it helps us to persuade others to help meet our needs.

**How:** Model good ways of relating to others and use role play to practise. Use stories or case studies to get students to discuss the principles behind how we relate to others – what do we mean by trust, the nature of friendship, etc.? Allow them to develop their own ‘rules’ and practices.

Interpersonal skills are closely related to good communication skills and skills such as empathy and negotiation.

**Key steps for teachers**

- Respect other people’s views and positions, try to understand them.
- Be genuinely interested in others.
- Manage your own stress and anger.
- Be an active listener.

- Remember people’s names.
- Treat others as you’d like them to treat you.

More specific interpersonal skills such as assertiveness and refusal skills are dealt with below.

**Key steps for students**

- Respect others.
- Try to understand their view.
- Listen carefully.
- Manage your emotions.
- Remember other people’s names.
- Treat the other person as you’d like them to treat you.

**Negotiation**

**Definition:** This is an aspect of interpersonal relations. It is the ability to communicate with others in order to come to an agreement or settle a dispute or conflict. It involves persuasion and also making compromises.

**Importance:** Negotiation skills are important because they enable us to meet our needs and get on well with other people. They are useful in team work and within communities.

**How:** Help students to understand the problem or conflict from both people’s points of view. Then model good negotiation skills to come to an agreement. Provide opportunities for them to practise using role play, provide feedback, and then activities for them to try their skills in real life.

**Key steps for teachers**

- Use good communication skills (see page 21).
- Listen carefully to what the other person wants.
- Explain clearly what you want.
- Be prepared to meet the other person half-way, to give and take.
- Think creatively about ways in which you can both give something in order to reach agreement. Can you create a win-win

## SOME IMPORTANT LIFE SKILLS

situation, where both people come out feeling they are better off?

### Key steps for students

- Listen carefully.
- Explain clearly what you want.
- Be willing to give and take.
- Try to think of a way you can both be happy.

### Refusal skills

**Definition:** This is being able to say 'No' effectively even in difficult situations. The refusal needs to be understood and accepted by the other person.

**Importance:** Refusal skills are important for making healthy choices and resisting peer pressure to have sex, take drugs or do other unhealthy or risky things. They enable us to stay true to our values and aim for our goals.

**How:** Students discuss the situations or contexts in which refusal skills can be used. Model refusal skills in different contexts. Provide opportunities for them to practise using role play. Give feedback on their effectiveness. Let them think about 'What would I say if they say ...' and rehearse their responses. Encourage them to practise in real life situations.

### Key steps for teachers

- Say 'No'.
- Use a strong, clear voice, keep eye contact and make sure your body language also says 'No'.
- Do not smile.
- Repeat your refusal as often as necessary.
- Explain why – give reasons.
- Suggest an alternative activity.
- Talk it through or, if necessary, walk away.

### Key steps for students

- Say 'No'.
- Use a strong, clear voice.
- Keep eye contact and make sure your body language says 'No'.
- Do not smile.
- Repeat your refusal as often as necessary.
- If necessary, walk away.
- Tell a trusted adult.

One variation on this for young children is the 'No! Go! Tell!' message for children facing abuse or inappropriate touching.

### Assertiveness

**Definition:** Assertiveness is the ability to get your voice heard and be taken account of. It is the ability to express your feelings and needs, and get your rights, while respecting the rights and feelings of others. It is related to communication skills and sometimes to refusal skills. Assertive communication is clear, direct, open and honest.

**Importance:** Assertiveness is important because it enables people to express their views and get their needs met, while still respecting others. It helps to improve interpersonal relations and reduce stress. It helps to resolve conflict rather than avoiding it or making it worse, and it can improve self-esteem.

**How:** Model assertiveness skills for the students and encourage them to discuss and then practise assertive responses to different situations. It can be helpful to make a distinction between being assertive, passive and aggressive. Passiveness is not being clear about your own needs or views, whereas aggressiveness does not respect the other person. Provide or suggest real situations in which students can practise their assertiveness and then evaluate their effectiveness and how this made them feel.



### Key steps for teachers

- Speak clearly, be honest and open, firm and direct.
- Be respectful to the other person, do not put them down.
- State your needs, use sentences beginning with 'I ...'.
- Say 'No' if you need to.
- Do not criticise or blame the other person, avoid sentences beginning 'You ...'.
- Describe the facts, be specific, do not make judgements or exaggerate, for example say 'He was an hour late', rather than 'He's always late'.
- Be matter of fact and use humour if appropriate.

### Key steps for students

- Speak clearly and firmly.
- Be respectful and honest.
- State your needs. Use 'I ...' sentences.
- Say 'No' if you need to.
- Do not criticise or blame the other person.
- Describe the facts.

### Empathy

**Definition:** This is the ability to imagine what life is like for someone else, even in a different situation. It means putting yourself in their shoes so as to better understand their needs, motivations, goals, etc. and involves caring for others and tolerance towards those who are different from ourselves.

**Importance:** Empathy is important in caring for others and helps us to be more likeable and make good relationships. It helps us to be more tolerant towards people unlike ourselves and to avoid judging or stigmatising others.

**How:** Encourage students to use their imaginations; use stories, mini-case studies, and role play to help them to place themselves in other's shoes. The important skill is in being

able to switch from objective to subjective; see, for example, the difference between the first two steps below and the third step. To do this they need to identify how the other person is feeling. Ask students how they would feel in a situation. Get them to compare it with similar situations they have experienced. Ask them how they could support the other person.

### Key steps for teachers

- Ask the person to talk about their situation or how they feel but respect that they may not want to talk.
- Be a good listener.
- Use your imagination to understand how it is for the other person.
- Share your feelings – be honest and open.
- Give support and encouragement.
- Offer help as appropriate, a listening ear or something practical.

### Key steps for students

- Listen carefully and well.
- Imagine how the other person feels.
- Try to understand.
- How can I show support?
- What would he/she like me to do?

### Co-operation and teamwork

**Definition:** This is the ability to work together with others to achieve a goal or perform a task, get a job done or learn together.

**Importance:** Co-operation skills are important for team work. They allow us to learn and gain from each other, to build up trust and interdependence. Often more can be accomplished with others than alone, so working together can increase self-esteem and self-confidence. Co-operation skills are good for building relationships with friends, partners and family.

**How:** Students can be given opportunities for co-operating in pairs and small groups in many different kinds of tasks, some quite structured and others which are more open ended.



## SOME IMPORTANT LIFE SKILLS

Make sure the task is clear, but as students improve their team work allow them to assign roles and work out for themselves how to accomplish the task. Ask students to reflect on how well they worked together as a group – did some members take over, did others contribute little? How can their team work be improved?

### Key steps for teachers

- Think about what you can contribute.
- Make sure you contribute something.
- Respect others' contributions.
- Help others to contribute.
- Accept help from others and learn from them.
- Help the group to work together.
- Help to keep the group focused on the task.
- Afterwards discuss what went well and what didn't.

### Key steps for students

- How can I help or take part?
- Respect others and help them too.
- Learn from others.
- Work well together on the task.
- What could we have done better?

## Advocacy

**Definition:** Advocacy is speaking up for others or for a cause. This is a social skill related to empathy. It involves active support for another person or group to influence or change things. It includes skills of persuasion and influencing others. It also includes motivating others to help, and networking to contact people with influence or the ability to help.

**Importance:** It is an important skill in order to create a more just, equal and healthy world. It is a skill of good citizenship. It also enables people to feel empowered to influence the world around them and this is healthy.

**How:** Advocacy can be modelled. Students can develop advocacy through meeting and learning about people who are powerful advocates for others, such as those speaking out for the rights of people living with HIV and AIDS (PLWHA). Students often feel very strongly about injustices in the world. They can be given opportunities to find out more about the issues they care about and contribute their time and efforts. Advocacy can also be practised in the school and local community. Students can join existing campaigns of different kinds, in the local community or the wider world, for example about the environment. This is a good opportunity to involve parents.

### Key steps for teachers

- Identify the issue or problem.
- Decide who needs to be influenced.
- Research information and make sure it is accurate.
- Present information in a way which will appeal and be persuasive.
- Present information implicitly or explicitly to be effective.
- Suggest different ways to solve the problem or make change work.
- Make sure that the suggested solution changes the behaviour or solves the problem.

### Key steps for students

- What is the problem?
- Who or what needs help?
- Who can help them?
- What can I do or say to persuade them to help?
- How will I do or say it?

## Cognitive skills

### Critical thinking

**Definition:** This means examining problems, issues and information in a critical way. It means not simply accepting the first idea or information given without looking at it carefully.

Critical thinking involves enquiry, information processing, reasoning and evaluation.

**Importance:** It is important because it enables us to challenge assumptions, think about what people are telling us or about what we read (e.g. in the media) and base our decisions or opinions on evidence. It helps us to examine our own and others' attitudes, values and behaviour and to be aware of inequality and injustice. It enables us to see that those in authority are not always right and to develop skills as responsible citizens.

**How:** Encourage students to read critically, to ask questions and to challenge and evaluate information and assumptions before making up their own minds. Critical thinking is something which can be done in groups, with everyone contributing.

### Key steps for teachers

- Ask questions about information and about their own and others' opinions. Begin by thinking about the most useful questions to ask. Ask questions such as:
  - What evidence is provided for that conclusion?
  - Where could you find evidence?
  - How does the evidence impact the issue? How convincing is it?
  - What assumptions are being made?
  - Are there contradictory statements or evidence?
- Think about the answers. Are they useful or relevant? What additional information is needed?
- Evaluate the information.

### Key steps for students

- Do I have all the facts/truth?
- How will this help me?
- Ask questions about the facts.
- Think about the answers.
- What do I think now?
- Do I need more information?

## Creative thinking

**Definition:** This is thinking of new and original ideas which help us to solve problems and adapt to changes in our lives. It means exploring all the possible alternatives, including 'thinking the unthinkable'. It can be an individual or group activity.

**Importance:** It is important because it helps us in problem-solving, decision-making, conflict resolution and advocacy. It enables us to look at the consequences of our choices and find new solutions to problems or conflicts. It also contributes to healthy self-expression.

**How:** Model and practise creative thinking. Use mind maps or pictures as visual aids, or drama and song, discussion and brainstorming.

### Key steps for teachers:

- Research or discuss the issue.
- Brainstorm all possible solutions and suggest new or alternative ones. Do not rule anything out at this stage.
- Consider the consequences of each solution.
- Choose one or more 'best' alternatives.
- Try out the new ideas and evaluate them.

### Key steps for students

- Find out and talk about it.
- Think of lots of possible options.
- Think about the consequences of each option.
- Choose the best option.
- Try out your ideas.
- Did they work?

## Problem-solving

**Definition:** This is the process through which we can solve problems in our lives. Usually this involves identifying alternative solutions and choosing the best.

**Importance:** Problem-solving enables us to identify problems and their causes and decide what to do about them. It helps us to think

## SOME IMPORTANT LIFE SKILLS

about the consequences of our behaviours and make choices from a wider range of options, to ask for help and to compromise in conflict situations. Problem-solving is useful for groups and communities as well as individuals.

**How:** Model the process for the students, lead them through it using examples and then let them practise with problems in the classroom, and then in the wider world.

### Key steps for teachers

- Stop and think. What is the problem?
- Gather necessary information.
- What are the choices/solutions? Identify as many solutions as possible. (Use creative thinking.)
- What are the consequences of each? List the positive and negative consequences of each solution. Weigh them up carefully.
- Choose the best alternative. Act on it.
- Afterwards, look back – do you still think your choice was the best solution?

### Key steps for students

- What is the problem?
- Find out more.
- What are the options?
- What are the consequences of each option?
- Choose the best option.
- Act on it.
- Afterwards – did I choose the best option?

### Decision-making

**Definition:** This is about choosing from a number of options. It may be a decision to be implemented immediately (such as deciding to see a film tonight) or it may be simply a resolve for the future (such as deciding to eat more fruits). In some ways it is similar to problem-solving.

**Importance:** It is important because it allows thinking about a problem or issue in advance,

rather than acting impulsively. It means that the issue can be thought about properly, weighing up the various choices, factors and consequences, more information can be sought as necessary and the decision can be made with care. It is useful for setting goals and improves self-esteem. It enables students to plan healthy behaviours and take responsibility for their actions.

**How:** Students can be encouraged to think critically about other people's choices and decisions using the mini-stories provided in the Student's Books and other examples you or they provide. Then they can think about past decisions they have made, which turned out well and which did not, and why. Get them to think in advance about their own decisions, keeping in mind their values and goals. Encourage them to consider the effects of various decisions on their lives. Use 'What if?' questions to present possible decision-making situations, such as asking 'What if your best friend offered you a cigarette?' As students consider the options, this will help them to clarify and reinforce their values.

To encourage discussion you could ask groups of students to make a decision about a dilemma by consensus.

### Key steps for teachers

- State the problem. What has to be decided?
- List the choices of the decision/action. Think of as many options as possible.
- What will happen if a decision is not made?
- Evaluate the options – consider the consequences of each. Think about the consequences for others as well as yourself. Think about why you want to make a particular decision. Check that the options fit with your values.
- Select the best choice.
- Act on the decision.
- Evaluate the decision.

**Key steps for students**

- What do we have to decide?
- What choices are there?
- What are the consequences of each choice?
- Which choice fits with my values?
- Who can help me decide?
- Should I act now or later?
- Select the best choice and act.
- Afterwards – did I make the best choice?

For example, we could apply the key steps above to a particular context: eating junk food (empty calories).

- The problem is whether to eat junk food.
- The choices are: **A** to say ‘Yes’ this time; **B** to say ‘No’ this time.
- In this case you have to make a decision one way or the other.
- The options or consequences of each choice:  
**A** – unhealthy, may add weight, abuses body, goes against own desires/principles, shortens life, increases chances of lifestyle diseases.  
**B** – healthy, lengthens life, respect own body, feel good about myself.
- **B** is the best choice.
- Say ‘No’ to junk food.
- Lost pleasure of eating something sweet/fatty/salty. Kept to my own values. Treated my body with respect. Long-term health – yes.

This example shows how the steps can be applied to a context. Before you teach any of the life skills above, try applying the key steps to the context you intend to use in a similar way. If you adapt them for a particular situation, make sure that students will be able to apply them to other contexts.

You may wish to adapt the key steps further for the level of your students. In the lower classes or the first time you teach a skill, you may want to simplify it and leave out some steps.

**Resources**

Definitions and importance – adapted from *CARICOM Multi-agency HFLE Programme Manual for Facilitators of Life-Skills Based HFLE Programmes in the Formal and Non-Formal Sectors and Teenage Health Teaching Sessions*.

Key steps – adapted from C. Constantine, EDC, 2005-06-12 and David and Roger Johnson <http://www.clcrc.com>

PAHO: *Life Skills Approach to Child and Adolescent Healthy Human Development*. Authors: Leena Mangrulkar, Cheryl Vince Whitman, Marc Posner [http://hhd.org/sites/hhd.org/files/paho\\_lifeskills.pdf](http://hhd.org/sites/hhd.org/files/paho_lifeskills.pdf)

## 3 Teaching HFLE

### Teaching methods for HFLE

Teaching Health and Family Life Education and life skills requires active thinking and learning. Active learning means encouraging students to think for themselves, develop ideas and suggest ways forward. It means reflecting, rehearsing and practising skills. Teachers can act as facilitators and help students to:

- understand the issues and appropriate life skills
- practise life skills in a safe and supportive environment
- relate the issues and skills to their own lives and apply the skills
- think about their values and experiences.

Life skills are learnt more effectively through interactive methods. There are many different kinds of participatory learning activities which are useful for Health and Family Life Education and for this course. The units in Student's Books 4 to 6 provide suggestions for student activities and the second part of this Teacher's Guide elaborates on these and gives more suggestions. These do not have to be followed slavishly. Teachers often need to decide which kind of method is most appropriate for a particular kind of learning or a particular set of students. The choice of activity may also depend on the life skill which is being taught.

Most interactive learning will take place in groups. This includes pairs, small groups, larger groups and whole class work. Students are expected to take part and express their views or ideas, not to sit back and listen to the teacher. There will be times, of course, where teacher-led whole class teaching is appropriate, such as perhaps a brief introduction to a topic at the beginning of a lesson, or a summary at the end, or when giving instructions.

Below we will look at some of the main interactive methods in more detail, with pointers for the kinds of learning they can be most effective for.

### Pair work



Pair work is often more focused and private than small group work, and some shyer students prefer it. It enables every student to participate and sometimes share information or feelings they may not wish to share with a larger group or the whole class. You may find it useful for students to have semi-permanent partners for pair work, or sometimes to vary the pairs. At times it may be useful to have same-sex pairs, while at others mixed pairs may be helpful.

### Small group work



You may also want to vary the group size within a lesson. Small group work may be discussion or it may be a more focused task, for example producing a list or making a poster. In any case, talk is required and negotiation, co-operation and team work skills can be developed and practised. Even young children can manage group work, with help, for short periods of time and with very clear rules.

Small groups should ideally be from about three to five students in size. Many teachers arrange their students in semi-permanent groups sitting close by each other to save class time and the disruption of furniture moving, and allow students to get to know each other better. Then they can simply say 'Get into your groups ...'. However, for some activities you may want to change the groups or have groups based specifically on mixed or single genders. It can be refreshing for students sometimes to change groups.

Small group discussion allows more students to 'have their say' and so develop their own thoughts than is possible in whole class discussion. Also it is less likely to be dominated by the teacher, and students have to learn to listen to, and respect, each other's views, and shy students may feel more able to speak about sensitive topics.

Often students need assistance with group discussion. They may wander from the point and need to be brought gently but firmly back to the topic by the teacher. It is helpful to give them a specific question to answer or discuss or a list of points to put in order of priority. If students know they will have to report back to the class, this helps to keep them on task.

Each group can have a leader, chairperson and/or task-master to keep them focused and perhaps a different 'secretary' or 'spokesperson' to report back. Make sure all group members get an opportunity to take these roles. It is best to keep the time limit for each discussion or other group task quite short, and the task clear and simple, for example: 'You have five minutes to discuss this and come up with an agreed list of three points.'

Encourage students to express their own ideas, as this helps them to focus their thinking and clarify what they mean. You might also ask two groups of students to present opposing views on an issue, for example the pros and cons of building more houses in their village.

### Class discussion



This can be used to discuss a problem, issue or topic and students can learn from each other. Class discussions may be possible and useful depending on the size, maturity and other characteristics of your class. In order to keep everyone's interest, do not let the discussion go on too long, nor let any one speaker or speakers dominate. Lay down a set of rules for agreed conduct – these should be part of the agreed class rules decided at the beginning of the year (see pages 41–42). If there are problems in keeping to them, discuss this with the class – what do they think is the best way of solving the problem? They could even apply problem-solving steps to this issue.

Examples of class discussion rules might include:

- Everyone listens and no one talks while someone is speaking.

- The person speaking holds an object, for example a shell or stick, to show that they are talking.
- No one person speaks for more than one minute at a time (including the teacher!)
- The person speaking decides who speaks next (or you could have a separate chairperson to do that).
- Anyone wanting to speak raises their hand.
- People can ask questions of previous speakers but cannot criticise them.
- Everyone's views must be respected.
- Everyone has a right to speak or not speak.

Begin with short class discussions, which everyone can easily feel able to contribute something brief to.

### Debates

Debate is more formal than discussion, but by Level 4 students can be introduced to simplified debates, with some students speaking in favour of a statement and others against, either in the whole class or in small groups.

Debates allow students to research the background to an issue or can act as a summary for work already done. In a whole class debate it can be hard to ensure all students are involved, but debates can also be carried out in small groups. They can focus on any of the topics in the themes: relationships, sexual health, eating and fitness and the environment, but often moral or health issues are most successful. Choose topics which students feel strongly about and allow them to speak for the side they agree with. The motion can be decided by the teacher or by the whole class. Debates allow students to develop and practise critical and creative thinking, co-operation, assertiveness and communication skills.

One way of including more students in a debate is to expect contributions from the floor, and students can be asked to prepare for this. The motion for the debate can be worked through in a preparation lesson (brainstorming, preparing arguments, writing speeches). You



will need two or three speakers for the motion, two or three against, one or two chairpersons and a time-keeper. Decide on the length of the speeches. The chairperson should introduce the motion, and speakers from each side should alternate. Hold the floor debate before the final summing up by the teams. Then have a vote of the whole class.

### Brainstorming

In small groups or as a class, students suggest as many ideas as possible about a particular question or topic. All ideas are recorded on a sheet of paper or the board so everyone can see them. Ideas are not discussed or judged initially. After brainstorming, discuss the ideas and keep the useful ones. This is useful for all age groups because students contribute their ideas. It is good for finding out what the class knows about something, for collecting suggestions, options or alternatives, for creative thinking and for problem-solving.

### Role play

Role play is a vital technique for teaching HFLE and life skills and there are many suggestions for this throughout the Student's Books. Role play is informal dramatisation in pairs or small groups, when individuals take roles to act out a situation. Even young children often find role play quite easy, as they can use their imaginations to pretend to be someone else, or to pretend to be themselves doing or saying something.

Role play can be a helpful way for the teacher to present or model life skills steps, either alone, with a student or another adult, or perhaps using puppets (see below).

The teacher needs to prepare children by describing the situation and discussing it with them, making clear any important points about the individual roles and helping students to get into role. Make clear statements about the roles students are taking on, for example: 'You are going to play Lucy. She is sad because ...'. Once students know what roles they are playing, give them a few moments to think about them and use their imaginations to get into role. Role play does not have to be a big performance.

In a large class role play can take place in small groups or pairs, and students may not even need to move from their seats.

Role play is useful because it necessitates students having to imagine what it is like to be someone else, and having to think and act from another's point of view. It helps them to try out new ways of behaving and see the responses others give in a safe situation.

It is important to role-play with a specific problem or issue to resolve. After the role play you need to debrief: help students back out of their roles, discuss what happened, how the characters felt, how the life skills can be improved or what happened in the interaction. Debriefing is important to ensure that the teaching point of the role play is not lost.

Debrief using questions such as:

- How did it feel to be Lucy?
- How did people respond to you? How did that make you feel?

Encourage students to differentiate between their own thoughts and those of their characters, for example by saying: 'I am Sharlene, and usually I talk a lot, but when I played Suzanne I felt ...'. Role plays can be acted out again with questions asked of the characters or use of a 'pause button' to ask the audience what they think a character should do next.

Role play is an important method for practising life skills such as communication, refusal, assertiveness and co-operation skills. It is also good for trying out possible choices and working through the responses from others. In addition role play encourages empathy, as students have to imagine themselves as someone else.

### Using puppets for role play

In the Student's Books and Activity Books there are two animal characters – a parrot and a crab. Especially in Level 4 classes, you might build on this by making a simple puppet of each for use in front of the class. These puppets can be used for role-play demonstrations, by you or by students.

Alternatively, you might find it useful to make and use puppets of human characters or to let students make some simple ones for themselves. The easiest types to make are stick puppet figures of cloth, or finger puppets. Students can make a simple finger puppet with a roll of paper around a finger and a face drawn on the paper. You could even create a basic puppet theatre for students to use when they show their puppet role plays. Puppets may be used for story-telling, dialogues, to introduce topics, and for role-play modelling and practising life skills key steps.

### Questioning

Traditionally we think of the teacher questioning the students, but this method can be used for students questioning the teacher or another 'expert', and each other, especially when groups of students have investigated particular topics. Having students frame their own questions, individually or in pairs, can help them to clarify their ideas and develop their thinking.

Questioning of students by the teacher needs to have a specific purpose to be effective. It should be clear and concise and require comprehension, analysis or evaluation skills. Avoid questions which are vague or undemanding. Try to avoid most closed questions. Instead include questions which:

- invite recall of important factual information
- invite the student to say more about themselves or the topic (without being intrusive)
- enable the teacher to check if a concept has been understood
- challenge a student to look at something in a different way
- open up a topic or explore a different aspect of it
- ask students to compare and make value judgements
- ask students to think about what they would do in a given situation

- present students with a dilemma or choice
- ask students to analyse why something happens, to give reasons
- ask students to suggest consequences.

Encourage students to refine their own questioning skills – what do they want or need to know about a topic? How or where can they find this out? For example, at the end of a unit or topic they could be encouraged to frame 'Questions I still want answered'.

### Reading activities

Students in Level 4 will vary in their reading skills; some might still be struggling, while others can read quite well. It is important that all students have access to the text and this can be done by the teacher (or parent/guardian) reading with students following, by paired reading (one able reader with one who is less able), or by some students reading out loud. Reading should be interactive so that before reading, the teacher introduces the reading or students talk about the topic, and afterwards they review the reading in some way. This might be by asking questions about the reading, by reading critically or discussing what is meant. The Student's Books provide short factual passages for reading, as well as mini-stories and case studies.

Some students may be intimidated by reading activities. You can engage the non-reader by the teacher or another student reading the passage in class or by recording the passage beforehand and playing it via computer or cell phone. Make good use of the illustrations in the Student's Books to explain the text through questioning, before or afterwards. Or make sure all students in the class have access to the passage by getting able readers to explain or retell what they have read.

### Using mini-stories, stories and case studies

Many of the units in the Student's Books contain mini-stories, stories or case studies. These are intended to give depth to an issue, to personalise it and allow discussion of common dilemmas or situations for which fictional



examples may be more easily discussed. They allow students to avoid talking about themselves or people they know. They allow them to discuss and analyse situations which they might encounter, explore problems and test solutions verbally. This means that they think about the factors which affect someone's thinking and the consequences of their actions. They practise their decision-making skills in the safe environment of the classroom.

It is useful if the teacher guides the students' thinking, filling gaps, extending thinking, bringing out important points and raising questions of values, morality or longer term consequences.

Mini-stories can also be used as models for students' own work – creating stories or dramas to describe or explain situations. Sometimes they may be asked to act out or write alternative endings, depending upon the choices made.

### Using longer stories and story-telling

Stories may be invented by the teacher or student or be read from published materials.

Books are available with longer stories on some of the topics tackled. For example see the *Caribbean HIV-AIDS Readers* level 1, and the *Living Health and Living Earth Readers* published by Macmillan. These can be read by individuals with an interest in a particular topic, or used by groups who can then present the story in some way to the class. Many stories for young people contain passages about choices or dilemmas which the teacher can use. For example, a short passage can be read to the class who then ask questions about it, or suggest solutions to a dilemma using problem-solving skills. Groups can role-play various endings or individuals can go away and write an ending and share it with the class.

Similarly, pairs or groups may be asked to tell stories about a given topic. They can be given a starting point or situation and asked to think through what might happen. Then the different groups can share their alternative stories or solutions to the problem, and the class can discuss them, and the choices made. Pairs or

individuals may also like to make cartoon strips or picture stories, graphic novels, or film story-boards. If your class has access to computers these kinds of activities lend themselves to using digital methods.

Story-telling helps students to think through causes and consequences and practise critical and creative thinking. It helps with empathy and can be a useful tool in presenting situations for advocacy.

## Speaking and writing activities

Generally HFLE work should not focus on writing, but on other active learning methods, such as speaking. However, students at upper primary can be asked to write short answers, paragraphs and diary or journal entries, as well as fill in tables, apply labels, etc. By this level they can reflect on what they have been learning about in HFLE and express their ideas in poems, dialogues, songs and stories.

Speaking and writing within HFLE could include:

- Presenting ideas in fictional narratives – stories about situations or problems encountered, such as family conflict or peer pressure.
- Poetry – perhaps about a place they feel happy or safe in, or about an environmental problem.
- Songs or raps explaining a situation or giving advice about some aspect of healthy living.
- Brief notes for themselves, perhaps their goals and how they will achieve them.
- Instructions for others to follow – such as how to say 'No'.
- Lists – advantages and disadvantages, pros and cons, stages in a process or reasons for something.
- Opinions – giving their own view on an issue and the reasons for it.
- Dialogues (can be a paired activity) to show a conversation, negotiation, assertiveness skills, etc.

- Letters – imagining they are someone else, written from student’s own perspective, to a friend, or advocating a particular course of action, supporting others.
- A journal or diary. It is very useful for students to be able to have somewhere they can reflect on ideas and their own thoughts and feelings. Ideally this should be a separate book, but the accompanying Activity Book can be used, or even an exercise book. However, you need to draw up rules for this at the start of the year. Will the journal be read by the teacher or only the student? Or sometimes by the teacher with the student’s agreement? What happens if anyone finds another student’s journal? Students need to know that if they confide their innermost thoughts to their journal, their privacy and confidentiality will be respected.

### Drawing and making pictures

Some students may learn better using visual expression rather than words. Students can express their ideas in pictures, posters, picture stories, cartoon strips, mini-graphic novels, diagrams, models or sculptures. It is important to display students’ pictures, mounting them carefully and adding captions where necessary. Displaying a picture conveys to the student how much the work is valued. Students may want to take pictures home to show parents or others.

Students might use pictures cut from old magazines or newspapers to make collages or posters. They might even take a series of photos, or draw pictures of people they care about, or of favourite healthy foods, sports or a favourite place. If your class has access to computers and the internet, then students can make digital collages, story-boards or slide shows on particular topics or themes (this is especially useful for advocacy activities).

### Modelling

This is a useful activity at upper primary, especially if you have access locally to clay or to junk materials such as cardboard, old containers, and papier mâché. Modelling can be used to

show different types of foods or human needs, or aspects of our environment. If modelling is carried out after careful observation and discussion, then it can take thinking forward. Different types of models include dioramas made in cardboard boxes, models resembling maps or plans of the environment, or model figures, such as types of families.

### Using diagrams and charts

Present and display different kinds of diagrams and give opportunities for students to express their ideas in diagram form, such as flow-charts, mind maps or star diagrams. Decision diagrams can also be used – a question can be posed and at each point alternative answers presented. Each answer may lead on to another question, with its own answers.

### Using photographs and other illustrations

Pictures such as those in the Student’s Books can be ‘read’ in a similar way to the text. Sometimes they reinforce the text but often they provide additional information and ideas. Photographs and other illustrations can provide a useful stimulus for discussion before reading. Teachers can encourage students to look at illustrations critically and to ask themselves questions, such as ‘What is the person feeling?’ A useful introduction to a lesson may be to show the picture to students and ask, ‘What can you tell me about this picture?’ Students tend to have varying interpretations of pictures and diagrams. Questions to consider include:

- What/who is the main thing or person in the picture? What does the picture tell us about them?
- Is there anything happening? Who is doing what?
- What has happened before this? What will happen next?
- How do the people feel?
- What details do we notice? What do they tell us?

### Imagining past and future

Much work in HFLE requires using the imagination. For example, in order to get on with others and empathise with them we need to imagine how they may feel. Similarly, in order to solve problems and make decisions, students need to develop their imaginations.

One useful way of doing this is to consider the cause and consequence of an event or situation. To think about the causes for someone's behaviour, we need to think back in time. To think about consequences, we need to think forwards.

Another useful game or method is to consider 'What if ...?' This can be applied to oneself, for example 'What if I had an accident, what would I do?' Or to other people, real or fictional: 'What if Ramon didn't eat any fruits and vegetables?'

A chain of consequences can be built up, predicting: If this happens ... then ...

### Reflection

In many units of the course students are asked to reflect on issues for themselves. Teachers may of course use these reflection points in different ways, depending on the maturity and needs of their classes, but at times it is certainly good to allow individual students space to reflect on how what they have learnt impacts on their own lives, their attitudes and values. Sometimes this reflection may take the form of a journal entry or piece of expressive art, but often there does not need to be any kind of 'product'. Students can be encouraged to think things through, to reflect quietly for a few moments. Do not always offer this as a homework exercise or something rushed at the end of the lesson – many students will not have time or space to do it. Show that you take reflection seriously, perhaps even modelling it for them, both out loud and silently.

You might find it helpful to look at the following websites which give simple guidance in reflective practice for teachers, but also some tips which you might find helpful for students.

'Reflective Practice and Self-Evaluation'  
<http://www.qotfc.edu.au/resource/index.html?page=65381> and '5 "Q.U.I.C.K." Steps of Reflective Practice'

<http://www.teachhub.com/5-quick-steps-reflective-practice>

### Using creative arts

As a teacher you will know it is important to motivate students by using exciting and memorable stimuli, and encourage active participation. Songs and rhymes are good for young students as they are enjoyable, they require everyone to participate and they help students remember important points.

All the creative arts provide ways in which your students can express what they feel and think, both individually and in pairs or groups. The arts also provide ways in which students can practise advocacy, persuade others and present their findings. Visual arts including posters, displays, photography and video, modelling, music and song, drama and dialogue can all be exciting motivators and help students to develop their thinking.

### Games and simulations

Games can help students learn concepts and skills and foster positive attitudes. They provide opportunities for active learning and can reinforce ideas such as healthy eating. They are good for practising listening and speaking skills and excellent for encouraging co-operation. For example, action games such as 'Simon Says' can reinforce good habits such as cleanliness and road safety and help to teach leadership. Board games based on the snakes and ladders principle can reinforce health or hygiene rules. Games can also sometimes have an emotional, and therefore behavioural, impact which other kinds of learning lack. Above all, games are intended to be enjoyable and active.

Students can invent their own games to help them learn. See also page 123.

## **Life skills cards or posters**

When teaching specific life skills you may find it useful to have large cards or posters you can hold up or display, listing the key steps for students. See the photocopiable resource for these on pages 141–161.

## **Using the wider community**

### **Outside visits**

Outside visits can greatly enhance some aspects of the course. It is hard to learn about the environment sitting in the classroom.

Walks around the school playground and the neighbourhood or visiting a landfill site or other facility are important for learning about the environment and environmental health. Learning about healthy food choices can be enhanced by visits to a market, mall or supermarket. Fitness can be encouraged by outside activities, trying new sports, even doing some exercises or playing physical games in the playground. Other aspects of the course such as health resources can be made more immediate by visiting the local health centre.

It is essential to prepare outside visits carefully. Discuss any proposed visit with colleagues and the head teacher. Make sure you obtain parental consent, if necessary, well in advance. Visit the place or person yourself beforehand. Plan the route carefully even if you are not going very far, and be aware of any hazards. Students may be divided into groups with different tasks and a leader, preferably an adult, for each group. Each student needs to know exactly what they should do and what is expected of them. Prepare students carefully so they are informed about the topic and can ask sensible questions.

Outside visits enable students to see their learning as part of the real world and to talk to people who work with these issues every day.

### **Visitors in the classroom**

Invite visitors into the classroom to speak with the students. Discuss this with the head teacher and administration in advance to obtain

clearance and advise them of the presence of visitors on the premises. Be sure to brief the visitors well. Make sure the visitors don't think they will be giving a presentation. Instead, ask visitors to speak for only a short while, to show something interesting, or lead an activity and then be happy to answer students' questions or join in with discussions.

People to invite might include health workers, a dietitian, teenage parents, a person living with HIV and AIDS or someone caring for PLWHA or orphans, drug workers, officials responsible for the environment or people from environmental campaigning groups or even the school's own guidance counsellor.

Parents might also be willing to take part in debates or discussions on important issues such as cleaning up our neighbourhood, gender roles or conflict at home. Students will usually find it interesting to meet people with first-hand experience of the issues they are discussing.

### **Voluntary activities**

In research it has been found that commitment to healthy behaviours is most marked among those students who not only learn information and life skills, but also take part in voluntary activities, for example in an anti-litter campaign. You might therefore like to think about the ways students can take part in voluntary work with their families or others to deepen their personal experience of some of the issues. This might include caring for others, caring for the environment, or advocacy, such as getting involved in campaigns about pollution, teaching others about healthy eating, or coaching younger children in sport. There are many voluntary organisations which students can join.

## **Lesson planning for HFLE**

Although in most countries HFLE is not an examined subject, planning HFLE lessons is just as important, if not more so, because of the participatory life-skills approach. You can use your normal lesson planning template but it may be useful to keep in mind the following:

## EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT

- Decide on the Regional Standard and core outcomes (in the CARICOM framework or in your own national syllabus) that the lesson will focus on. If you do not have access to the CARICOM framework then see the CARICOM core outcomes and unit objectives in the unit notes in this book (page 81 onwards) which relate closely to the CARICOM framework and national syllabuses.
- Decide on the life skill and context and make sure that each fits well with the other (relevant life skills are noted on each double-page spread/unit of the Student's Books and in the teacher's notes, pages 81–138 in the second part of this book.) Make sure that the context chosen does actually elicit the chosen life skill.
- Some units may take longer than 45 minutes and these can be divided into two sessions or a continuous project, e.g. Sexuality and Sexual Health, Unit 5, Uncomfortable feelings (see pages 104, 105) and Managing the Environment Unit 3, Caring for our plants and animals (see pages 127, 128).
- You may want to teach or revise the particular life-skills steps (pages 16–28) before the main activity.
- Research shows that it is best to focus on one life skill in any one lesson.
- Make sure you have the necessary resources, for example poster paper, markers, newspaper clippings, etc. where these are needed.
- Make sure that the main part of the lesson is an age-appropriate activity, interactive and participatory, and that you change the activity often enough for your students.
- It may sometimes be useful to begin with a non-threatening warm-up activity and/or by linking this lesson's topic to previous ones.
- Make sure that instructions for all activities are very clear.
- Make sure that any activities, especially role plays, are properly debriefed and that you allow sufficient time for this. Help students to

learn from the activities and each other and make any learning explicit.

- Make sure you allow enough time for student questions and discussion of any issues.
- Check that students have grasped the main concepts.
- Summarise or tie up the lesson at the end.
- Make sure each lesson or homework includes something which you will use to evaluate learning and that you have decided on the criteria for evaluation (see page 39).
- If you think students have not grasped the skill, plan for another session using a different approach, or a different context, either following this one or later in the term. Life skills take time to grasp and internalise, so don't expect your students to be able to understand, remember and apply them immediately. Learning these skills is a life-long process.

## Evaluation and assessment

Traditionally there have been two kinds of assessment of students in school: summative (at the end of the course), and formative – feedback given to students as they progress. HFLE assessment has mostly been of the latter kind.

Although HFLE is not usually examined formally, teachers still need to have some way of evaluating students' progress and the success, or otherwise, of their teaching. Evaluation is important because:

- teachers need to know how well they are teaching, what has been successful and what less so
- students need to know they are making progress
- the head teacher needs to be aware of what is happening in the HFLE classrooms
- parents need to know about their children and how they are doing.



So the purposes of each assessment of student learning usually include one or more of the following:

- administrative reasons
- giving students feedback on their progress
- giving guidance to students about their future work
- motivating students
- planning future lessons.

In HFLE, evaluation needs to concern itself with knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviours. It is mostly informal, although you might need to check more formally that important concepts have been understood at the end of the theme or year. More important, however, is assessing students' progress in acquiring life skills and for that purpose traditional assessment methods can be ineffective. Consequently we need to look at alternative methods of assessment.

How can we assess students' learning in HFLE in a useful way in order to help them to progress? We can keep a record of students' progress as seen in discussions, in role plays and in any individual or group work presented, but this can lack any objectivity. It may be useful to think in terms of three stages for each skill: a) knowing the steps and understanding the skill, b) being able to show the skill in classroom situations, and c) being able to try to apply it in real life and reflect on that experience.

### Alternative assessment methods

One alternative assessment method is to use student portfolios, journals and Activity Books to allow students to reflect on their own learning, and teachers to assess knowledge, keep track of the work students have done, pick up on misconceptions and erroneous ideas, and sometimes to assess attitudes. They are also a useful way of giving individuals feedback and even communicating with parents.

- Activity Books accompany this course and can be used by students as a record of their

thinking and individual progress. They can also be marked by teachers and taken home and seen by parents.

- Journals are usually more personal, allowing a space for reflection, and some teachers may want students to be able to keep journal entries private and confidential, only reading materials as the student wishes.
- Portfolios are usually folders in which the student keeps their best work, pieces of which they are proud. They may also contain samples of worst or rough work or work which has been revised or improved upon, in order to show progress. They provide evidence of work done, and can also contain reflections about the learning and teacher or parents' feedback. Portfolios can also be used for grading purposes.

Many different kinds of tasks or activities can be used in HFLE to assess learning. The important thing is that the task enables the student clearly to demonstrate that they have acquired the knowledge and skills laid out in the regional standards. Activities may include individual written, drawn or made materials, such as a report, cartoon strip, test, story or model, or a record of reflection about their learning. They can also include co-operative group work such as a role play, drama, debate, poster, interview or CD. Suggestions are provided in the Student's Books and Activity Books, but teachers should feel free to choose others, depending on their students' abilities and interests. The greater the variety the better, as this will help to motivate students and also enable those students who do not necessarily excel at written work or prefer other learning styles to show their achievements.

Generally teachers assess life-skills learning informally, by watching and listening carefully, but this can be difficult in large classes and can also be open to bias. To assess the practical oral and behavioural learning of life skills, teachers need other methods. For more objective alternative evaluation and assessment it can be useful to develop rubrics setting out the criteria for assessing an activity or piece of work and the resulting marks.

The following table is an example of an alternative assessment rubric.

**Performance task – a group role play using refusal skills in a situation relating to alcohol**

Performance task	Criteria				Total marks
No. of marks	4	3	2	1	
Participation in group discussion and planning of role play	Strong participation, good teamwork	Fair participation, some attempt to encourage others	Rare participation	No participation	
Understanding of topic knowledge: life skills steps	Remembers key steps and displays understanding of when to use them and how	Some knowledge of key steps, but lacking detail	Partial knowledge and understanding	Little grasp of life skills steps or understanding of when to use them	
Understanding of topic knowledge: dangers of alcohol	Full knowledge and more, can answer questions easily	Some knowledge and understanding	Partial knowledge and understanding	Little grasp of information	
Contribution to role play	Strong, thoughtful, participation, original ideas, empathetic, very enthusiastic, good teamwork	Some participation, some understanding of situation, enthusiasm and display of refusal key steps	Weak or half-hearted participation, no original ideas, partial display of refusal key steps	Little work, lack of enthusiasm, poor contribution, fails to display knowledge of refusal skills or understanding of situation	

**Self-assessment and peer assessment**

In HFLE, more than other subjects, students can be involved in evaluation, by assessing their own progress and that of their partners or groups. Whole-class marking can also be useful as it allows discussion and sharing of ideas in a safe environment. While these kinds

of assessment should never replace teacher assessment and should be carefully supervised and monitored, they also have many benefits:

- They can help students to understand better what they are aiming for.
- They can help students understand better what teachers are looking for.

- They provide an audience for work and can motivate students effectively.
- They can help students develop empathy and respect for others.
- They can help students reflect on their own work and areas to improve.
- They can help students to understand different successful approaches they could have taken.
- They can help to build a learning community where everyone learns from everyone else in a spirit of co-operation and enquiry.
- They can save teacher time in marking straightforward exercises.

Many teachers are concerned about using peer assessment, but students are usually scrupulously fair in assessing the work of others, even if they are sometimes more critical than teachers. Nevertheless, you may want to begin this process by allowing partners to mark each other's work on a quick quiz or other activity where answers are clearly correct or not. You will then be able to move on to let students assess other activities and products, perhaps using mutually agreed criteria.

The development of effective self- and peer assessment takes time and effort. Teachers need to begin by modelling the process, for example by showing how to give constructive feedback with detailed comments on a group role play, or by providing a list of questions that students might ask themselves about the role play. This allows students to become familiar with the process.

Students need to be supported in giving effective feedback, helping them to understand the different types of feedback that can be given and how each type can help others (and themselves) to improve their work. For younger students peer evaluation can be oral and simple: 'What I liked about ...'.

Some rules for peer assessment:

- Respect the work of others.

- Identify successful features.
- Word suggestions positively.

For peer assessment to work well, teachers need to create a safe learning environment where mistakes are seen as learning opportunities and teachers, too, can make mistakes and learn from them. Students can act as critical but supportive friends but they need to understand that everyone is different and learns at their own pace. It is important that some students do not lose motivation by comparing their work with that of others. Where they are evaluating each other's work it is best to pair students at the same level.

Students can similarly be encouraged to reflect on their own learning and progress, comparing their current work with previous work, with criteria identified by the teacher or the class, and with their own personal targets. They can be encouraged to identify weaknesses and see how they can make improvements. They can also then help to develop their own targets and take responsibility for their learning.

To help students in self-assessment, use debriefing after activities such as role plays or games (see below).

Lastly, it is important to remember that not all objectives may be achieved at the end of an HFLE lesson or unit. Objectives of developing a life skill, value or attitude may require many sessions over the years. In these cases your assessment strategy must monitor and record skills development or attitude change over a considerable period of time.

### Debriefing activities

After most activities it is useful to debrief with the students. There are three main stages to debriefing:

- Students share what happened to them during the exercise – what they did, observed, felt, etc.
- Students share how useful it was. How did they benefit? What did they learn? How does the exercise relate to the real world? Teacher helps by sharing his or her views.



- Students discuss how they will do things differently in future.

Make sure that debriefing or evaluation is a positive experience for students – always find something good to say, even if you then go on to criticise constructively. Students need feedback in order to improve, but they are more likely to listen to your criticism if it is presented positively as a way of improving.

### Teacher self-evaluation

Much of the value of evaluation is that it enables the teacher to check their own performance. If you can be self-critical, you can improve your teaching skills by becoming aware of what has gone well and what has failed. This is especially important in an area like HFLE which requires participatory activities and engaging students with sensitive issues.

After each lesson and theme ask yourself some reflective questions or criteria, such as:

- Did I achieve the learning objectives?
- What motivated the students best?
- What got them talking and exchanging ideas?
- Do they understand the important concepts?
- Did all the students learn something?
- Should we have spent longer/less time on any area?
- Which parts of the lesson were most effective with which students?
- Were there problems with class control or attention?
- What can I do to improve it next time?

### Creating a safe classroom environment for HFLE

It is very important to create a safe classroom environment for sharing ideas and expressing thoughts and feelings in HFLE. Without this, teachers will not be able to teach effectively using a life-skills approach and students will not be able to take an active part in the lessons. HFLE deals with sensitive issues such as emotions, personal hygiene, family life, friendship, conflict, sexuality, HIV and diet. Many students will feel shy or uncomfortable about sharing personal information with their classmates or teacher. Some may feel worried about being teased or harassed as a result. This can be addressed by allowing students to create ground rules or guidelines.

### Class rules or guidelines

At the beginning of each year, with each new group of students, you will need to set up classroom rules for HFLE. These will help you to manage the class, and also help students to talk about difficult or sensitive issues, to protect themselves and to respect you and each other. The rules are an important part of creating a safe classroom environment and will need to be revisited often.

When drawing up the rules, make sure that the students are involved as much as possible from the beginning, and that this involvement in rule-setting increases as they grow and mature. By Level 4, especially for students who already have experience of HFLE classes, it should be possible to discuss and agree class rules. Help students to see that class rules are designed to keep everyone safe by discussing with them: 'What happens when ...?' or 'What might happen if ...?' While young children may find the idea of confidentiality difficult, by Level 4 they should be able to understand that you don't share something private and you don't talk about others, or what they said, outside the classroom. All students can understand basic rules such as 'I must be kind to others' and 'I must not speak when someone

else is speaking.' Make sure that everyone understands the rules.

For older children, it may be helpful to ask students to discuss in pairs the issues of talking openly – how safe they feel and what might make them feel safer. Let them discuss issues of trust, honesty, kindness, etc. so that they can develop their ideas and understanding. Then you may either present the class with a list of suggested rules for them to discuss or ask them to suggest some.

Once the rules are agreed, ask the students to make a poster of them to put up in the class. If the students feel ownership of the rules they will be more willing to keep to them. Of course, children at any age will, at times, fail to keep to the rules. Use any such failures, not to criticise or tell students off, but as an opportunity to revisit the rules and discuss why they are needed and how they help everyone.

The following are some suggested rules for upper primary classes to aim for:

- Always listen to each other carefully, with respect.
- When one person speaks, everyone else listens.
- Take turns to speak; let everyone who wants to speak have a turn.
- No one has to say anything about themselves, their family or what they feel.
- Don't speak for too long.
- Don't ask difficult personal questions.
- Don't tease others.
- Don't make rude drawings or jokes with sexual meanings.
- Don't whisper when someone is speaking.
- Keep class discussions confidential. That means, when you are outside the class you don't talk about what was said in class.

The following are some useful rules for teachers:

- Let students work in separate groups of girls and boys when talking about sexual matters.
- Use correct scientific words (like 'penis' or 'vagina') when talking about sexuality.
- Have a question box so students can ask difficult questions anonymously (see below).
- Respect students' privacy – do not ask personal questions. Remember that there are some things students are happy to share with a partner that they may not want to share with a group or the class. Some things students may not want to write down, even in a personal journal, just in case someone reads it.
- Allow students to tell you when they feel upset or embarrassed by the way other people talk.
- Do not allow any students to talk in a way that offends or embarrasses others, or to tease other students or to bully them. Have a 'no-tolerance' strategy.
- Keep confidentiality, unless you have to tell someone else because you think a student may be in danger, for example because they are being abused. Then only tell the people you have to tell. Make sure your students know you will keep confidentiality, but with this exception.
- Do not make moral judgements about your students or criticise them as people.
- Do challenge unhealthy, unwise or unkind behaviour.

### Question box

In Levels 4 to 6 it may be a good idea to have a question box in the classroom so that students can write down any questions they don't want to ask out aloud. Students put their questions in the box and the teacher takes them out and answers them later. No one, not even the teacher, needs to know who asked which question.

### Confidentiality

This is very important indeed, and applies to teachers as much as students. You will have to judge at what point your students may be ready to understand this and perhaps even try to keep confidentiality, but do not expect young children to be able to do this easily.

- Talk to the students about confidentiality and what it means. Tell them that nothing they say or hear in class should be passed on to others or talked about outside. Let them discuss confidentiality and the trust that goes with it, thinking about some 'What if?' scenarios.
- Make it clear that the teacher too, will keep everything they hear in class confidential, with one exception. If the teacher hears something which makes them think a child is being abused or in danger, then they have a duty of care and so they MUST discuss it with someone else. Students need to know that the teacher will keep confidentiality, but that it is limited.
- Make sure students understand that they do not have to share anything personal with the class, or with a partner or in a group – everyone has a right to keep quiet. The teacher and other students should not put any pressure on students to reveal any information they do not want to share.
- Remind students that if they share something personal and someone breaks the confidentiality rule, people outside the class may get to know. So they need to think carefully before they share very personal information.

### Creating a positive atmosphere

In order to teach HFLE effectively the teacher needs to create a positive atmosphere which is conducive to learning and feels safe and friendly. Students need to feel their views are respected, that they can ask questions (even apparently 'silly' questions) without ridicule.

They need to feel that the learning material and methods are interesting and relevant.

Using participatory methods does not mean allowing students to do as they like. Group work and interactive activities will only work well if there is a good structure in place and the teacher maintains authority. Many students will not feel safe in a classroom where other students are allowed to dominate or behave badly, so classroom and behaviour management are very important indeed. Students can be encouraged to take part in setting the rules (see pages 41–42) and in enforcing them, but they must be held to account in keeping to them.

Classroom management also means taking care when setting up pairs or groups for discussion. In many cases students will be willing to tell a best friend personal information that they may not want to share with the whole class, so moving from pair work to sharing with the class must be dealt with sensitively. The teacher may need to warn students at the beginning of an activity, for example by saying 'Only share with your partner what you do not mind sharing with the class.' On other occasions it may be best to use single-sex groups to discuss some sensitive issues.

How the teacher behaves is important in creating the right atmosphere. The teacher needs to be the role model for behaviour. You will need to model respect for others and anger management, be open to questions, seek students' views and take them seriously. You need to show respect for each student, value and respond to their opinions, and find opportunities to praise them.

You can encourage students to take responsibility for their learning by offering them choices. For example, you could sometimes let them choose activities, who to pair with, or discussion topics. Then you can encourage them to take responsibility too – by bringing in resources, giving out books, clearing up, organising their group work so that everyone contributes.

## Class norms

The teacher, as facilitator, needs also to encourage positive and safe 'norms' within the class: kindness and co-operation between students; helpfulness and support; trust between friends; respect for each other's opinions; respect for the opposite sex; respect and tolerance for other people who are different; willingness to work hard and contribute to group tasks; willingness to ask questions; a sense of humour (but not at others' expense!); and a recognition that we are all special and possess gifts that can contribute to the whole class in positive ways.

This can be done by modelling such behaviour, but also by challenging unacceptable comments or behaviour from students, such as sexist language or jokes (see below).

Teachers should try not to criticise students' views, but instead to challenge their thinking by asking questions. Encourage students to discuss both sides of controversial issues, and if all the students are firmly of one view it may be necessary for the teacher to present the opposite opinion clearly. Try not to make moral judgements or offer students advice within the classroom setting. Help students to develop their own values and morality by asking questions, such as 'Is that fair?', 'Who does that benefit?', 'How might X feel about that?', 'What do you think is important here?', 'How does that fit with your values?'

## Dealing with inappropriate behaviour or language

The safer students feel, the more likely they are to talk. However, there may be occasions when something goes wrong and a student is teased or something said in confidence is spread to others. If this happens it may be more effective to discuss what happened with the class rather than simply meting out punishment to the offenders. Try not to criticise or blame the person, but rather their behaviour – do not say 'You are a rude boy' but rather 'Why did you behave in such a rude way?'

Some classes and individual students may react in a challenging way to HFLE, perhaps because of fear, embarrassment, confusion or immaturity. Challenges may include trying to shock by saying things which are rude or sexually explicit, asking difficult questions, asking personal questions of the teacher or other students, and making silly comments to disrupt the class or make other students laugh. Other students' embarrassment may make them stay silent or giggle nervously.

Some of this kind of behaviour is to be expected when sexuality is first discussed in class, and simple giggling and embarrassment should be tolerated at first, but as time goes on discourage giggling, along with other more challenging behaviour. Refer students to the rules they have made and remind them of their purpose. Be clear about what is appropriate behaviour and language for the classroom and deal firmly with anything inappropriate.

Teachers also need to deal effectively with any statements which reinforce stereotypes or put people down; for example, statements which imply that people with HIV have poor morals, or which suggest that women are inferior to men or boys are inferior to girls, or which are offensive to particular ethnic or religious groups. Discuss any such statements with the class to show how erroneous they are.

## Dealing with difficult issues and sensitive topics in the classroom

Many of the topics and issues raised in this course are sensitive or capable of causing discomfort and even offence if handled badly. Some may be topics (such as family conflict, violence and sexuality) that some parents feel should not be discussed in class. The teacher's responsibility is to liaise with colleagues, the head teacher, students and parents in order to teach the course effectively.

Some controversial aspects of sexuality or other matters are not directly dealt with in the course but may well be raised in questions from

students. Think in advance how you will deal with this. It is important that such questions are answered accurately and honestly and in a matter of fact way. For example students may ask about homosexuality, masturbation, teenage pregnancy or violence at home. Teachers will find it helpful to bear in mind the life skills and human rights perspectives of the course, when responding.

Some of the sensitive topics which might be raised by students during upper primary HFLE lessons, even though they do not necessarily appear in the course, include:

- Family conflict and domestic violence
- Divorce
- Child abuse
- Parenting styles, including corporal punishment
- Family types
- Children's rights and responsibilities
- Adoption
- HIV and AIDS and other STIs
- Casual sex and adultery or unfaithfulness
- Abstinence, chastity and delaying sexual activity
- Masturbation
- Sexual orientation, homosexuality, transvestism and transgender
- Drug use and abuse.

For background information for teachers on some of these issues and others, see pages 52–56.

You may find it useful to think about your own attitudes to these topics before you begin teaching HFLE, and make sure you have accurate information or know where to get it. You may also find it useful to discuss these topics with your colleagues and even develop some informal guidelines about how to deal with questions that arise. Think about your own personal experiences and values in relation to these issues and how these may influence what you say or how you behave in the

classroom. Keep in mind that it is best not to judge people without first exploring the reasons for what they do or have done. (See also the next section on the teacher's own attitudes and values, page 46.)

Many of us find it difficult to talk openly about sex and sexuality. Some teachers may feel shy or unsure of the facts. Others may be afraid that talking about sexuality may affect their reputation. However, we must keep in mind the importance of sexual health education in keeping students healthy. We have a duty to give our students correct information and build their skills. If we are to keep students safe from HIV infection and teenage pregnancy, then we need to talk about sexuality long before our students are sexually active. They need to have accurate information about human reproduction, contraception and sexually transmitted diseases, and they need to have the motivation, values and life skills to make healthy, safe choices.

Teachers should also bear in mind the age and maturity of their students and provide information of the right level, depth and amount. For factual background information for the teacher on sensitive sexual issues see page 52, but it is **not** intended that these topics should be taught to students.

Some students may approach you for help outside the class. Think in advance how you will deal with this. Is there a guidance counsellor to whom you could refer students, who would be better able to help them than you are? How can you best respond? As they have approached you in trust, you need to do the following:

- Listen carefully to what they are saying. If necessary find a better time to talk to them. Take their concerns seriously.
- Do not be judgemental. Thank them for approaching you and if possible refer them to someone trained, who can help, within the school or outside (e.g. a health clinic or NGO). Check later that they have followed this up.
- Keep what they have said confidential, unless they are in danger, when you should point

out to them that you have a duty to tell someone else.

## **The teacher's own values and attitudes**

In order to teach HFLE effectively teachers need to be aware of their own values and attitudes. They need to be comfortable with themselves and their own family relationships, their sexuality, their relationship to issues such as healthy eating and exercise, and even with their responses to environmental issues.

None of us is totally without prejudices, but teachers approaching HFLE for the first time may find it useful to tackle or reflect on some of their own attitudes and feelings. You may find it useful to discuss some of these issues with colleagues, or reflect on them yourself:

- How do you feel about yourself: physically, socially, mentally, spiritually, emotionally?
- What is your relationship with food and exercise? Does the school have a policy on junk food?
- How well do you look after the environment? Does the school have a policy on environmental issues?
- Do the moral standards and expectations for men and women differ in your community – for example in relation to domestic violence or unfaithfulness?
- How would you respond to a student who told you they were being abused, or reported domestic violence?
- Are students at risk from internet use or cell phone practices?
- How would you respond if a student disclosed they were being bullied, or alternatively that they were bullying another child?
- How does the community respond to teenage pregnancies or homosexuality?
- How do you think you would feel if you found out someone close to you had HIV?

- How would the school deal with sex between a teacher and student?
- What are community attitudes to different ethnic or religious groups?

When thinking or talking about these issues, keep in mind ideas about human rights, equality, gender and diversity.

## **Involving parents**

Parents are our students' first and, in many cases, most important, teachers. Research has shown us that nurturing parent-child relationships and parental participation in child-related activities relate to positive outcomes, strengthen school performance and tend strongly to impact future development and achievement. Supportive, consistent parental involvement leads to better performing schools and students. It is especially important in a subject such as Health and Family Life Education, which to be effective, really needs to have parents on board, supporting the teaching and encouraging the learning.

Involving parents is a great challenge as well as an opportunity. Regardless of cultural and socio-economic backgrounds, parents the world over love their children, want the best for them and are willing to support schools to teach them important life skills and keep them safe. As teachers it is vital that we reach out to our parents to involve them in this work. This is especially important because of the sensitive and sometimes controversial topics which may come up in HFLE classes.

The Health and Family Life Education curriculum provides learning opportunities for our students and their families, therefore finding creative ways to involve parents is critical. Here are some basic suggestions:

- Stage a sensitisation session for parents on the key components of the HFLE curriculum, i.e. explain that as the course progresses you will be asking them to share stories about friendship, healthy menus using 'glow, grow and go' foods, environmentally friendly practices, and so on.



## INVOLVING PARENTS

- Listen to parents' views and concerns about the teaching of HFLE and try to allay any fears by explaining the aims of the course.
- Encourage students to share their HFLE related work with their parents whether orally, in writing, or via class work which is sent home and homework which can include specific activities that involve parents. Parents can also be asked to sign the homework from time to time.
- Make yourself available to individual parents should they need to discuss the best ways of talking about any sensitive topics in the curriculum with their children.
- Note parents' professions as well as any hobbies/skill sets they may have, to draw on this information for class speakers as well as projects.
- Remember to share with parents just how important their own behaviour is, as children model what they see. Encourage them to be conscious of the need to model a calm approach to solving problems, healthy lifestyles, environmental awareness, etc.
- Organise a school health fair once a year to promote aspects of the HFLE curriculum, and encourage parents to attend for free check-ups.
- Involve parents in environmental awareness activities such as school/community clean-ups, Earth Day celebrations and school/community environmental activities and campaigns.
- Encourage parents to participate in the creation of a school garden by donating seeds, tools, etc. and attending a planting party.
- Encourage students and parents to work together on HFLE related community issues and local advocacy.
- Stage an exhibition of HFLE related work during a school open day to share the scope of the children's work during the course.
- Encourage parents to join and participate in their PTA.
- It is important that we let parents know when their children are performing well, in addition to when they are performing poorly. Encourage parents of students who excel at aspects of HFLE to be particularly proud of them, especially if they are not always so good at academic subjects, by sending home notes remarking on their children's stellar HFLE performance.
- Last but not least, remember to let parents know regularly that you appreciate their concern and participation. Consistently thank them for their interest and support and remind them that schooling is a partnership between teacher, student and parent.

## Resources

Jamaica Ministry of Education. *HFLE Teacher Training Manual*, 2009. Pages 137–146.  
[http://hivaidsclearinghouse.unesco.org/search/resources/bie\\_hfle\\_training\\_manual.pdf](http://hivaidsclearinghouse.unesco.org/search/resources/bie_hfle_training_manual.pdf)

## Evaluation

UNICEF. Global Evaluation of Life Skills Education Programmes. 2012. Pages 26–30.  
[http://www.unicef.org/evaldatabase/files/UNICEF\\_GLS\\_Web.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/evaldatabase/files/UNICEF_GLS_Web.pdf)

Criteria as a checklist for evaluating an English lesson: 'Criteria for evaluating lesson effectiveness.'  
<http://eteachermethods.wikispaces.com/file/view/Criteria+for+Evaluating+Lesson+Effectiveness.pdf>

'A Quick Checklist for Teachers.' Dorit Sasson. 1.12.2006.  
<http://suite101.com/article/a-quick-checklist-for-teachers-a12951>

## Assessment strategies

[http://hhd.org/sites/hhd.org/files/HFLE%20Core%20Curriculum\\_Self%20and%20Interpersonal%20Relationships.pdf](http://hhd.org/sites/hhd.org/files/HFLE%20Core%20Curriculum_Self%20and%20Interpersonal%20Relationships.pdf)



**Involving parents**

CXC document pages 11 and 12.

<http://www.cxc.org/SiteAssets/CPEADocuments/CPEAHandbookforAdministrators20December2011.pdf>

## 4 Background and resources for the four themes

In considering the important concepts, issues and skills in the four themes, teachers should refer to the *HFLE Regional Curriculum Framework Ages 5 years to 12 years* or to their national syllabuses, and in particular the HFLE standards, which specify the essential knowledge, skills and attitudes that should be taught. Teachers should also refer to the key ideas of each of the themes in the *HFLE Regional Curriculum Framework Ages 5 years to 12 years*.



### Self and Interpersonal Relationships theme

The two key areas here are relationship with self, and relationship with others, but these take place within a wider community and world context. The regional standards for this theme focus on acceptance of self, the need to belong and be loved, universal needs and rights, and acquiring skills to develop good personal resilience, build healthy relationships, reduce risky behaviours, avoid unhealthy behaviours and take a responsible role. They also involve valuing and respecting diversity and equality among Caribbean peoples.

Key concepts include self-concept, self-awareness, self-esteem, attitudes, values and goals, and personal growth. Human beings are social, and our mental and emotional health is closely related to the health of our relationships. Healthy relationships depend on acquiring social life skills. Learning life skills can help individuals' emotional health, their personal relationships and their interactions with the wider world. Beginning this process as early as possible, and continuing it through primary education, gives students a better start in life and a greater chance of fulfilling their potential.

#### Relationship with self

We all need to process and understand self in order to attempt to enjoy and manage

relationships. Inviting the students to process what they know and how they feel about themselves lays the necessary foundation. Students can then use the skills of self-awareness and critical thinking to identify and clarify their values, beliefs, strengths, weaknesses and habits. The self-concept, that which is known and believed about the self, can be distorted by negative statements and attitudes. By creating the right safe environment we can empower students to explore their feelings and improve how they feel about themselves, which is their self-esteem.

Childhood and early adolescence can be confusing and challenging, but personal growth and development can come from applying creative and critical thinking skills to the changes experienced. Students can use the skills of decision-making, healthy self-management and coping with emotions to manage their feelings in a healthy way. Students can also be encouraged to identify their personal interests and aspirations.

#### Relationships with others

Having explored their selves, students should be in a better position to analyse, understand and manage their attitudes, behaviour and relationships with family and friends. For many of our students at this stage of their development, the relationships they share with their parents or guardians are the most important. By learning effective communication skills early on they may be able to continue to communicate effectively with these important adults during puberty and beyond, and build good, healthy relationships with friends and others as they grow up.

Acquiring and using self-awareness, decision-making, problem-solving, assertiveness and refusal skills will enable students to recognise and resist undesirable influences such as, later, strongly felt negative peer pressure.

Responding to violence at home, in school and in the community is a daily challenge in our society. Understanding and embracing the skills of managing emotions, effective communication, assertiveness and negotiation, prepares students to display behaviours that could significantly reduce violence. Enabling young children to manage their emotions better, leads to happier and more effective classrooms.

## The wider world

We live in a world of big business, media and rapidly changing technologies. Our cultural realities have the potential to undermine the values we would like to see in our students. Psychosocial, emotional and economic pressures often threaten their growth and development. As our students struggle to locate themselves in a diverse and rapidly changing world, interpersonal, critical thinking and decision-making skills become vital if their potential is to be realised.

Growing self-esteem and confidence enables students to empathise with others better and to use the skills of advocacy to begin to make a meaningful contribution in their community.

To some extent the three levels of self, relationships and the wider community can be seen in the other themes.

## Resources

<http://www.youngminds.org.uk>

<http://kidshealth.org/kid>

<http://www.cyh.com/HealthTopics/HealthTopicDetailsKids.aspx?p=335&np=282&id=1791>

<http://www.kidshelp.com.au/grownups/news-research/hot-topics/>



## Sexuality and Sexual Health theme

The regional standards for this theme focus on an understanding of human sexuality; the factors which influence the expression of sexuality; reproductive health; acquiring values, skills and knowledge to understand students' own sexuality and reduce their vulnerability to risks and problems such as HIV and AIDS; and accessing sources of sexual health information and services.

In order to enable students to understand their own sexuality, and protect their sexual health, a number of key areas or concepts are dealt with in the course:

- sexuality as a part of personality, including gender and gender roles
- puberty – preparing for coping with its changes
- knowledge about reproductive health and parenting, and access to information
- sexual behaviours and values which are affected by family values and practices, religious beliefs and teachings, social and cultural norms and personal experiences
- reducing the risks of abuse, exploitation, early pregnancy, HIV and AIDS, STIs, cervical cancer
- stigma and discrimination against, and caring for, people living with HIV and AIDS (PLWHA).

Research has shown that ignorance does not protect students, and age-appropriate knowledge helps students to delay sexual activity. Information about sexual behaviour and its consequences in the course is given in order to protect students and help them to delay sexual activity until they are adult. Always keep this aim in mind when you are teaching or answering questions.

In a similar way to the 'Self' theme above, issues are dealt with at three levels – individual, personal relationships and the wider world. At each of these levels, different life skills are more important.

Students will have learnt about the spread and prevention of diseases in lower primary, with an emphasis on hygiene, hand washing and care for the body. This can be reinforced and continued at upper primary. Students can be encouraged to take a pride in their cleanliness and take responsibility for looking after their own body.

### Spread of diseases

Some diseases are infectious, such as colds and 'flu, while others, such as asthma, sickle cell anaemia and diabetes are not. Common infectious diseases are caused by either bacteria or viruses. Usually our immune system deals with these diseases and gets rid of them. Sometimes we may need antibiotics to deal with bacterial diseases such as chest infections.

Infectious diseases are spread in a number of different ways:

- In the air, when people cough or sneeze – colds, 'flu, chickenpox, tuberculosis.
- Through touch – when one person touches another or when one person touches a surface on which there are bacteria. Examples include colds and athlete's foot. The best way of preventing this is by washing hands.
- Through food – many foods have low levels of bacteria which our bodies can deal with; it is only when the numbers grow that this becomes harmful. Cooking destroys bacteria and safe food handling controls them. Some bacteria such as salmonella and cholera can be very dangerous.
- Through water – water may contain bacteria which cause illnesses such as cholera or gastroenteritis. Drinking water is normally purified.
- Through animals – malaria is spread by mosquitoes. Rabies is spread when an infected animal bites a person.

### Hand washing rules

Hands should be washed before:

- preparing food and eating
- treating a cut.

And after:

- touching uncooked foods
- blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing
- taking out the garbage
- playing with pets
- working with animals or in the garden or farm
- changing nappies.

Handwashing steps – you will need warm water, soap and a clean, dry towel:

1. Wet hands with warm water.
2. Use soap and rub the palms of the hands together.
3. Rub the palm of one hand over the back of the other and then swap hands.
4. Put your palms together again and interlace the fingers. Keep rubbing the soap in.
5. Rub the back of your fingers against the palms of the other hand.
6. Wrap one thumb with the other hand and rub. Swap hands.
7. Use the fingers of one hand to scrub the palm of the other hand. Swap hands.
8. Rinse hands with water.
9. Dry hands with a clean, dry towel.

Washing hands properly should take as long as singing 'Happy Birthday' twice.

### Caring for the body – personal hygiene

Daily bathing or washing is essential and should include a bath or shower in the morning or before bedtime, or washing in a basin. Students need to know how to wash their face, ears, armpits, private parts and feet. They should know how to brush their finger and toe nails, clean beneath the nails and clip them and begin to be able to do this for themselves.

### Hair

- Wash regularly with shampoo.
- Massage your scalp well. This will remove dead skin cells, excess oil and dirt.
- Rinse well with clean water.
- Use a wide-toothed comb for wet hair as it is easier to pull through.

### Mouth, teeth and gums

Bacteria in the mouth grow on teeth and gums, forming dental plaque which attacks the teeth and gums and causes disease. Keeping the mouth clean will protect against tooth decay, toothache, bleeding gums, tooth loss, discoloured teeth and bad breath.

- Brush teeth and gums twice a day – before or after breakfast and before bed.
- Use a small, soft toothbrush and fluoride toothpaste. From six years of age children can use adult toothpaste. Children under six need special children's toothpaste.
- Gently brush each side of every tooth, the gums and tongue. It should take about three minutes.
- At the end, rinse your toothbrush under running water and store it in a clean, dry place.
- Do not share a toothbrush.
- Visit a dentist for regular check-ups and any necessary treatment.

### Difficult topics

Students at upper primary may occasionally ask about masturbation, homosexuality or other sensitive topics. It is important that teachers know about these topics and any school policies dealing with them. If you feel comfortable talking about these issues, then the background information below may help you to deal with students' questions in an age-appropriate way. If not, you can refer students to other sources of information, but remember that unless a student is in danger you must keep confidentiality about their questions.

The information below is provided for the teacher, to enable them to have greater knowledge themselves and answer any questions accurately, and **not** with the expectation that they should teach this to their students. Teachers should refer to their head teacher and/or school policies before teaching students about sexual matters.

### Masturbation

This is when a person touches themselves sexually to reach orgasm. It is a way of expressing sexual feelings. Research shows that most people masturbate at some point in their lives. It does not harm the body and may help with abstinence. It is safer to masturbate than to have sex and risk getting pregnant or getting HIV; and it is better to masturbate than to harass others. But some people say masturbation is wrong. There is no truth in the many myths about masturbation, such as that it makes you blind, or mad, or that it makes you lose interest in sex.

### Sexual orientation

Sexual orientation is whether people are heterosexual (attracted to the opposite sex), homosexual (attracted to their own sex) or bisexual (attracted to both). Some men are attracted to men (often called 'gay' or men who have sex with men (MSM)) and some women to women (lesbian). Many people have these feelings during adolescence or young adulthood, but some people have these feelings all their lives.

In some countries, including most if not all Caribbean countries, homosexuality is against the law. In others homosexuals are allowed to get married or have civil partnerships. Make sure you know the situation in your own country and any Ministry or school policy. In many places, cultures or religions are against homosexuality and people feel that homosexuals ought to change or abstain. Others disagree and say that homosexuality is something a person is born with and cannot change.

Transgendered people feel their physical sexual organs do not match their mental state, for example they are born a man but feel they are a woman. Sometimes this results in them seeking hormone treatment and sex change operations. A transvestite is someone who dresses in clothes belonging to the opposite sex. This may be occasionally, regularly, or all the time. In many places and cultures people disapprove of transgendered people and transvestites.

### **Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) or diseases (STDs)**

These include diseases such as syphilis, chlamydia, herpes, gonorrhoea and HIV – any disease which is spread by sexual activity, not necessarily only by intercourse. Their spread can often be prevented by using condoms.

### **ABC and risky behaviour**

The ABC or ABCD of prevention is a slogan used in HIV and other STI prevention in many countries. It stands for the choices which people make to stay safe: **A**bstain, **B**e faithful, **C**ondomise, and **D**isease, the last referring to treating any STDs (Sexually Transmitted Diseases or STIs) quickly. Even before young people become sexually active, it is important that they are taught the ABC of prevention. This is to enable them to protect themselves when they get older and understand the risks they may be taking. It may be appropriate for children as young as eight, nine or ten to understand that they should delay sexual activity to keep themselves safe, although you may not want to go into details about this. Check with your school policies.

Some behaviours increase the risk for young people of having unsafe sex and contracting HIV and other STDs. These include:

- spending time alone with someone they love and are sexually attracted to
- accepting gifts or money from someone who then expects sexual intercourse in return
- using alcohol or other drugs which reduce their inhibitions and affect their judgement

- listening to peer pressure to have sex or believing myths about the need for sex or the effects of not having sex.

Even quite young children may be at risk from these behaviours, especially from predatory adults, and depending on their situations. By thinking about the possibilities and consequences beforehand, students can more easily plan to abstain and stay safe, practise refusal and assertiveness skills and use them as necessary.

### **HIV transmission**

HIV is present in all the bodily fluids of a person with HIV, but mainly in blood, semen and vaginal fluids. It can be transmitted through breast milk too, but the amounts present in saliva and tears are so small that these fluids are not routes of transmission. HIV does not spread from person to person very easily. It is killed by heat and by drying and does not live long out of the body.

The main way in which HIV is transmitted is by sexual intercourse, either vaginal intercourse or anal intercourse. HIV cannot enter the body through unbroken skin but it can get in through the thin walls of the vagina, anus and penis. HIV is more easily transmitted from men to women than the other way around. The risk of HIV infection is increased by the number of times the person has sex, the number of different sexual partners they have, the presence of a sexually transmitted disease, forced sex, sexual intercourse during menstruation, and especially by anal intercourse.

HIV can also be transmitted by blood. There is no risk from giving blood, and in virtually all countries today blood for transfusions is screened. Infected blood can be passed from one person to another by sharing needles for injecting drugs such as heroin. It can also be passed in this way when unsterilised needles are used for medical injections. It is important that instruments used for male circumcision, tattooing and skin piercing are also sterilised properly, and that razors are not shared.

HIV can be passed from mother to baby, either in the womb, during childbirth or through breast feeding. However, nowadays most pregnant women are tested for HIV and the use of anti-retroviral drugs can prevent much mother-to-child transmission.

HIV is **not** transmitted through faeces or urine (unless they contain blood), nor by insects such as mosquitoes, nor by casual everyday contact. You cannot catch HIV by living with someone with HIV, sharing food, utensils, towels or toilets, or by shaking hands, hugging or kissing on the cheek. The risks to health workers are low – they need to come into direct contact with an infected person's blood and themselves have a cut or sore through which the virus can enter the body.

When talking about HIV and AIDS with students, it is important to use the two terms correctly. HIV is the virus which is passed from one person to another, whereas AIDS is the syndrome or group of associated diseases that people with HIV may get as their immune system becomes compromised. In practice, today, although HIV is still spreading, there are very few people with AIDS because treatments have improved greatly, enabling people with HIV to stay well.

### Universal precautions

Universal precautions are the rules by which people can deal with the tiny risk of HIV transmission from contact with blood in accidents and similar situations. As most people who have HIV do not know that they have it, and the only way to find out is by taking a test, it is safer to assume that anyone, or indeed everyone, may have it and avoid touching other people's blood.

Universal precautions help to prevent the spread of HIV to everyone (hence 'universal'). They are important because they do not discriminate by applying precautions only to people known to have HIV, so they are anti-discriminatory. They keep everyone safe, as in many cases we do not know who has HIV.

Universal precautions are important for teachers and school policy. They mean making

sure that we do not touch the body fluids of anyone else. HIV cannot enter a person's body through the skin unless they have cuts or sores, so it is usually safe to help someone who is bleeding even if you do not have plastic gloves. Use a cloth to help stop any bleeding to prevent the blood from getting on to your skin. It is useful to keep the following items in a first aid kit and use them appropriately: rubber or plastic gloves, some pieces of clean cloth, cotton wool, a plastic bag for soiled or bloody material, a bandage and antiseptic lotion.

### Voluntary counselling and testing (VCT)

The only way for someone to know if they have HIV is to go and get tested. When they go for testing they will usually receive counselling, both before the test and after the test when the results come. The result of an HIV test is confidential. The counsellor should help the person to decide whether and whom to tell if the result is positive and give them help and advice about safe practices whatever the result.

It is important that people go and get tested if they suspect that they may be HIV positive or have been exposed to any risky behaviours. By knowing their status, people are able to keep themselves and others safe. If they are HIV negative, they can get advice on how to stay negative. If they are HIV positive, they can get advice on caring for themselves, getting treatment such as anti-retroviral drugs, and keeping others safe. If a woman is pregnant, she can get drugs to protect her child from getting HIV. Research has shown that people who get tested and know their status early are more likely to stay well and live longer with HIV.

Most HIV tests look for antibodies to HIV in the blood. Antibodies are proteins in the blood which the body makes to fight HIV. Nowadays HIV tests are very accurate and sensitive.

### Treating HIV

People with HIV can remain well for many years. After a time, however, they usually begin to get opportunistic infections, such as TB or pneumonia, or skin cancers. By treating these



infections quickly, people living with HIV and AIDS (PLWHA) can live longer.

Anti-retroviral drugs (ARVs) are usually given to boost the immune system and keep HIV in check. Once someone is taking ARVs, then they must continue to do so for the rest of their life. ARVs do not cure HIV but help to keep the virus under control and enable the person to live a much longer, healthier life. A person taking ARVs can still infect others with HIV. Nowadays, although many people experience side effects and other problems, ARVs have changed HIV into a chronic but largely manageable disease.

### Stigma and discrimination relating to HIV

Stigma about HIV and AIDS comes from a combination of ignorance, fear and shame. People are ignorant of the facts and afraid that they may contract HIV. The way that HIV is mainly transmitted, by heterosexual activity, and the early association with homosexuality and prostitution means that it is associated with taboos and negative moral judgements. People who have HIV have even been blamed for their own illness. Therefore people have responded to HIV, and the people who live with it, with blame and abuse. Often AIDS related stigma is associated with other forms of stigma and discrimination, such as racism and homophobia or stigma towards prostitutes or drug abusers.

Stigma and discrimination make it very difficult for those trying to come to terms with HIV and AIDS, and seeking treatment. They often experience discrimination in the workplace or with housing or medical help. Even more importantly, stigma and discrimination also affect attempts to prevent transmission and treat the disease, for the following reasons.

- Governments may feel unable or unwilling to spend the necessary resources.
- Individuals may be unwilling to get tested because of stigma and lack of confidentiality. If people don't go for testing, they do not know if they are HIV positive and may continue to pass the virus on to others.
- People with HIV may be reluctant to go for treatment and advice. If they don't get

treated early, they are much more likely to die from the disease rather than live for many years.

## Contraception

There are a number of different contraception methods, but only condoms (male and female ones) prevent HIV transmission. Other methods of contraception include chemical or hormonal methods, such as the pill, injections, implants, and spermicides. Mechanical methods include the diaphragm and IUD or coil. Men or women can also be sterilised. Lastly there is natural family planning, preferred by some religious denominations, but particularly unsafe for young girls who have irregular periods. For more information about condoms see page 55 of the *Teacher's Guide* for the Macmillan Secondary Health and Family Life Education course.

## Puberty

This topic appears in the *CARICOM Regional Framework for students aged 9 to 12*, including physical, emotional and cognitive changes. Brief explanations of changes are provided below.

### Physical changes

When our bodies begin to grow and change, our brain releases hormones from the pituitary gland, a pea-shaped gland located at the base of the brain. These hormones carry messages to other parts of the body, such as the sex organs and sweat glands, and begin the changes of puberty. In females the message is sent from the pituitary gland to the ovaries where the hormone oestrogen is produced and released. In males the pituitary gland sends a message to the testicles, where the hormone testosterone is produced and released. Oestrogen and testosterone are responsible for the many different changes that come with puberty.

**Boys:** Boys often experience oily skin, acne, increased height (boys' growth spurt is usually later than girls'). The chest enlarges, the shoulders broaden, muscles develop, hair

begins to grow under the armpits and in the pubic area. The penis, testes and scrotum grow bigger. Sweating and increased body odour are usually experienced. Some boys begin to experience wet dreams. Eventually facial hair grows. The voice deepens and there are usually changes in sleep patterns, with adolescents wanting to go to bed later and get up later.

**Wet dreams:** In males, wet dreams happen when the pituitary gland sends a message to the testicles and the penis becomes erect and ejaculates semen. This is quite normal and should be explained to help boys appreciate how their bodies operate. They should shower and change their sheets and dry or turn the mattress if necessary.

Females sometimes wake up with sticky vaginal secretion on their underwear but unlike boys will not need to change the bed linen.

**Girls:** Girls often experience oily skin, acne, increased height (girls' growth spurt is usually earlier than boys'). Breasts grow larger, hips get wider, hair begins to grow under the armpits and in the pubic area. The ovaries begin to release eggs, and menstruation (monthly periods) start. Sweating and increased body odour are usually experienced. The voice deepens slightly and there are usually changes in sleep patterns similar to those experienced by boys.

**Menstruation:** As a female's body grows and changes (puberty), her ovaries release oestrogen that allows the ova/eggs she was born with to be released also. This process is called ovulation, and takes place once per month until a woman reaches the menopause. During ovulation the released egg is sent to the fallopian tube and into the uterus or womb, where, if it has been fertilised, it will develop into a foetus and grow until fully mature. The endometrial lining inside the uterus thickens within a month but begins to break down if there is no fertilised egg to nourish. The lining of the walls of the uterus begins to shed through the cervix and vagina. Females need to wear sanitary napkins to absorb the blood.

### Emotional changes

Self-consciousness, sensitivity about physical appearance, sensitivity to others' emotions, irritability, temper tantrums, mood swings, withdrawal/isolation, hyperactivity, elation and depression, feelings of uncertainty and/or confusion, worry, beginnings of attraction to the opposite sex, sexual desire, romantic feelings, intensity of emotions and a desire for privacy.

### Cognitive changes

Greater memory and problem-solving abilities, development of values such as ideas about right and wrong, improved reasoning, ability to think logically, creatively and see the consequences of viewpoints or behaviour, increased curiosity and boredom, better understanding of other people, development of abstract thinking and questioning of different points of view, ability to form own ideas and questions, process several ideas at once and make decisions.

### Social changes

Change of focus to associate with peers rather than family, pressuring others or yielding to peer pressure, desire for independence and responsibility, search for identity and new experiences, risk-taking, influenced more by friends, peers and media, increased social networks and communication, changes in communication patterns (less or more talkative, using slang, social media), possibly increased conflict with adults including parents, desire for privacy, sometimes shutting out parents or other adults.

## Human reproduction and the development of the embryo

This topic appears in the *CARICOM Regional Framework for students aged 9 to 10*, including the basic needs of a newborn baby. The risks that impact on reproductive health are also covered in the *CARICOM Regional Framework for students aged 11 to 12*, as are actions to prevent injury to reproductive organs, and risks associated with HIV and STIs.

### Fertilisation

During the menstrual cycle the uterus (womb) creates a blood-rich lining of tissue ready to support a fertilised egg. At the same time, eggs ripen in fluid-filled follicles in the ovaries. One egg is then released into the fallopian tube. In the next 12 to 24 hours, that egg can be fertilised if one of 350 million sperm (an average ejaculation) manages to swim all the way from the vagina through the uterus to the fallopian tube, to penetrate the egg.

### Implanting

Once fertilised, the egg is called a zygote. It begins dividing into identical cells and moves down the fallopian tube to the uterus, where it continues to grow. Once in the uterus the zygote is called an embryo. By four weeks it is the size of a small seed and begins dividing into three layers which will form the body's organs and tissues. The top layer forms the brain, backbone, spinal cord and nerves. The middle layer forms the heart and the circulatory system and the bottom layer forms the lungs, intestines and urinary system. At the same time the placenta connects with the lining of the uterus, and begins to take nutrients and oxygen from mother to embryo and take away waste. A water-filled sac around the embryo called the amniotic sac helps to protect it.

**Month 1:** A face forms with eyes, mouth and throat. Blood cells form and blood circulation begins, powered by a tiny heart.

**Month 2:** Ears and eyes are developing. Tiny buds form that will grow into arms and legs, with fingers and toes. The digestive system begins to develop and bone begins to grow. By the end of the second month, the embryo is about 2 cm ( $\frac{3}{4}$  in) long. After the eighth week, the embryo is called a foetus.

**Month 3:** The arms, hands, fingers, feet and toes are fully formed. Fingernails, toenails and teeth begin to develop. The reproductive organs also develop, but it is difficult to tell the sex of the foetus. By the end of the third month, the foetus is fully formed and about 8 cm (3 in) long. All the organs are formed.

**Month 4:** Eyelids, eyebrows, eyelashes, nails, and hair are formed. The foetus can make faces, yawn and stretch. The nervous system is beginning to function. It is usually possible to tell if the foetus is male or female. By the end of the fourth month, the foetus is about 12 cm ( $4\frac{3}{4}$  in) long.

**Month 5:** The foetus is developing muscles and moving. Hair begins to grow on the baby's head. By the end of the fifth month, the foetus is about 20 cm (8 in) long.

**Month 6:** The eyes open and the foetus can hear sounds. By the end of the sixth month, it is about 24 cm ( $9\frac{1}{2}$  in) long.

**Month 7:** The foetus continues to grow and responds to pain, sound and light. He or she changes position frequently. At the end of the seventh month, it is about 28 cm (11 in) long. If born now, the baby would be likely to survive.

**Month 8:** The foetus continues to grow and mature. The brain is developing fast and the foetus can see and hear. It is about 36 cm (14 in) long and may weigh as much as 2 kg ( $4\frac{1}{2}$  lb).

**Month 9:** The foetus continues to grow. It can blink, close the eyes, turn the head, grasp firmly with the fingers. The lungs are nearly fully developed. The foetus changes position to prepare for birth and drops down with the head down. The baby is about 36 to 40 cm (14–16 in) long and weighs about 3 kg (7 lb).

### Parenting

The potential challenges which affect adolescent parents and their families in raising a child are covered in the *CARICOM Regional Framework for students aged 11 to 12*.

Parenting is something which is often taken for granted but is crucial for the development of young people into productive, tolerant citizens who can make positive contributions to national development. Effective parenting is a learnt skill. Much of what parents know and practise is drawn from traditional information generally available and the personal experiences they had with their own parents.

Today, we know more about all aspects of human development – emotional, physical, social, moral and economic. The challenge is to disseminate this knowledge to parents of the future, so that they can apply it in their parenting activities.

Students can be encouraged to think about becoming good parents in later life. Here are some suggestions for students to improve their parenting **when** the time is right for them to start their own families. We are **not** encouraging them to become young parents, but instead getting them to think about the need to delay parenting until they are adults and able to be effective parents.

- Plan for when they will be ready, financially and otherwise, to start a family.
- Encourage children to be independent at tasks such as feeding, dressing and toileting.
- Praise children's achievements to help them develop confidence.
- Learn new ways to discipline children without hitting them or hurting their feelings.
- Encourage good behaviour by teaching their children how to do the right things. Model good moral behaviour.
- Set reasonable rules and good examples – a child learns how to behave from its parents.
- Be affectionate and treat their children with love and respect so that they learn to be affectionate with, and respect, others.
- Investigate schooling options. Make sure the school has the right 'feel' for the child and meets all legal requirements in terms of public health, safety and teacher training.
- Get involved in school activities like the PTA.
- Make sure children are healthy and ready for school by providing nutritious meals and making sure they get enough rest.
- Take their children to a health professional for regular check-ups and immunisations.
- Spend quality time reading, talking and playing with their children each day.

- Go on regular family outings to parks, beaches or the local library.
- Show their children that they value reading – model reading, buy books as gifts.
- Save towards their children's higher education.
- Ask children open-ended questions as much as possible to encourage them to think about their answers.
- Dedicate some time for themselves with their friends and partners without the children.

Above all, students must come to understand that the best and most effective parents are those who are ready in every way to have a child; they are happy with themselves, with what they have accomplished so far and are ready to dedicate the time and energy needed to parent responsibly.

## Resources

Background information can be found in the *International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education*, vol. 2, available at <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0018/001832/18328/e.pdf>

or

<http://www.unesco.org/aids>

Practical hand washing skills:

[http://www.who.int/gpsc/clean\\_hands\\_protection/en/](http://www.who.int/gpsc/clean_hands_protection/en/)

Puberty and other issues for children:

<http://kidshealth.org/kid/grow/>

Information on contraception:

<http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/contraception>

or

<http://www.netdoctor.co.uk>

WHO information series on school health – teachers' exercise book on HIV prevention:

[http://www.who.int/school\\_youth\\_health/resources/sch\\_document61\\_HIV\\_prevention\\_env2.pdf](http://www.who.int/school_youth_health/resources/sch_document61_HIV_prevention_env2.pdf)

## EATING AND FITNESS THEME

UNESCO teaching materials for HIV and AIDS education – includes life-skills exercises:

[http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=12167&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/ev.php-URL_ID=12167&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

How to talk about HIV in a religious context:

<http://www.e-alliance.ch/en/s/hiv aids/publications/exploring-solutions/>

Life skills for adolescents; guidance and sites for parents and teachers:

<http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/>

Information about HIV and particularly stigma and discrimination:

<http://www.avert.org/aidsstigma.htm>

All aspects of sexual health:

<http://www.likeitis.org.uk>

<http://www.nhs.uk/Pages/HomePage.aspx>

STIs:

<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/sexually-transmitted-infections/pages/introduction.aspx>

For more information on the development of the baby in the womb, see:

<http://www.beginbeforebirth.org/in-the-womb/fetal-development>

<http://www.babycenter.com/fetal-development-week-by-week>

This website is full of articles on any aspect of parenting you can think of and for any age:

<http://www.more4kids.info/>

Articles and advice on parenting:

<http://www.parenthood.com>



### Eating and Fitness theme

The regional standards for this theme focus on healthy eating choices, reducing the risk of lifestyle diseases, understanding students'

own fitness and fitness choices, examining the factors which affect these choices and accessing age-appropriate information.

Some of the main issues and concepts covered in the course include: healthy eating and fitness practices, safe food handling, different types of exercise and activity, safe exercise, forming healthy habits and choices for life. The life skills needed include self-awareness and self-monitoring skills, negotiation and decision-making.

As in the other themes, issues are dealt with at three levels – individual, personal relationships and the wider world. At each of these levels, different life skills are more important.

### What is health?

The World Health Organisation (1978) defines health as 'a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity'.

Physical health refers to the functioning of a person's body. Good eating and fitness habits contribute to a healthy body. Rest and sleep are also important.

Mental health involves the functioning of the mind and our emotions. Engaging the mind in stimulating activities like doing puzzles, reading and problem-solving is one way of keeping the mind healthy. Research suggests that engaging in such activities on a regular basis reduces the risk of developing Alzheimer's disease in old age. Recreation also helps to refresh the mind.

Social health is influenced by the quality of our relationships with our families and others. Spending quality time together, communicating, helping others, giving gifts and showing appreciation are some ways of maintaining social health.

The Caribbean Charter for Health Promotion (1993) includes 'spiritual health' in its definition of health promotion in the Caribbean context. Religious activities and charity work are two ways of addressing spiritual health.

The different components of health do not exist in isolation, but interact with and influence each other. For example, physical illness may affect social health because it can limit social contact and even cause stresses in relationships with those who have to take on the role of caregivers. Similarly, mental illness such as depression can actually cause physical symptoms like pain and loss of energy and may cause the affected individual to withdraw from social interactions.

### Nutrition

All human beings require water and different types of food and constituents of food in order to be healthy. Malnutrition may not simply be a lack of food in general but lack of specific substances, and this can cause deficiency diseases such as rickets and night blindness (vitamin A deficiency) or anaemia (iron deficiency).

Water is essential for all bodily processes such as digestion, removal of waste and regulation of temperature. It is obtained from drinking water and other drinks, and also from food.

Carbohydrates provide energy for movement and thinking. Simple carbohydrates such as sugar provide instant energy. Complex carbohydrates such as staples provide energy over a longer period. Carbohydrates are found in most staples and some root vegetables.

Proteins are used in most bodily processes. They are needed for growth, development and repair of bones, muscles and other tissues. Proteins are found in all meats, fish, eggs, milk, cheese, nuts and pulses or legumes such as lentils, peas and beans.

Fats provide energy and are important for the body to absorb some vitamins. Saturated fats are found in meat, dairy products and some oils. They are not good for you in large quantities. Unsaturated fats are found in plant and fish oils and help to protect the body from disease. Modern diets tend to include too much saturated fat and this is one of the factors causing modern obesity.

### Vitamins

There are many different vitamins in food which are essential for a healthy body. We only need small amounts of them. Some need to be taken into the body every day (water-soluble vitamins), others (fat-soluble vitamins) are needed less frequently as they can be stored in the body's fat. Vitamins help the body's processes and some have very specific functions. Some common examples are listed below.

- Vitamin A (retinol): important for night vision, skin health and the immune system, and found in orange and yellow fruits and vegetables such as sweet potatoes, carrots, mangoes and papayas. It is fat-soluble so not needed every day.
- Vitamin B6: important for using and storing energy and for healthy blood, found in white meat, fish, cereals, bread, soya beans, peanuts, milk. It is water-soluble so needed every day.
- Vitamin C (ascorbic acid): important for healthy cells and taking in iron, found in fruits and vegetables such as tomatoes, oranges, peppers and green vegetables. It is needed every day.
- Folic acid: important for blood and brain function, and found in some cereals, oranges, bananas and green vegetables. It is needed every day.
- Riboflavin: important for healthy skin and eyes, found in dairy products.

### Minerals

Our bodies also need different kinds of minerals. They act in a similar way to vitamins. Some of the main vitamins we need include the following:

- Iron: important for red blood cells and growth and found in red meat, liver and dark green vegetables.
- Calcium: essential for strong, healthy bones and teeth and found in meat, dairy products and fish bones.



## EATING AND FITNESS THEME

- Iodine: used for thyroid function, helps brain processes and growth, and found in salt and seafood.

### Balanced diets and multimix principles

A balanced diet is one which provides adequate amounts of carbohydrates, proteins, fats, vitamins and minerals. The multimix principle involves combining foods from different food groups so that a variety of nutrients are present in meals. Each meal should contain a staple which is the main source of energy for the body. Other food groups are then added in varying numbers to the staple to improve the nutrient content of the meal.

The most nutritious meals contain all six food groups or the four main groups (staples, food from animals, legumes and vegetables). A meal of chicken, rice, red kidney beans and carrots is an example of a meal containing the four main food groups. The number of food groups present can be increased by using cooking oil (fats and oils) in the preparation and adding a fruit drink (fruits). Meals containing only two food groups must include either legumes or food from animals in addition to the staple. This ensures proteins are present in adequate amounts.

### Vegetarian meals

Some vegetarians eat fish, eggs, cheese and milk but eat no meat. Very strict vegetarians, called vegans, eat no foods from animals. Vegans therefore need to include a good mixture of cereals, legumes, vegetables and fruits in their diet. Vitamin B12 is not found in plants, so vegans need to take supplements to get this vitamin.

### Some religious dietary rules

Some basic food rules about the different religions in the Caribbean include:

- Adult Catholics fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, and those aged about 14 years and older do not eat meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all the Fridays during Lent.

- Seventh-Day Adventists do not eat pork and its products, nor fish without scales and fins. These foods, according to their beliefs, are unclean. They do not drink alcohol.

- Rastafarians eat strictly *I-tal*, which means natural and clean. They do not eat pork or fish more than 12 inches long and food is prepared without salt. Rastafarians do not drink alcohol, milk or coffee.
- Muslims do not eat pork and its products, nor meat from animals with claws such as crabs. They do not drink alcohol. During the month of Ramadan, a time of fasting, they do not eat or drink during the day.
- Hindus do not eat beef because the cow is considered to be sacred, and most Hindus are vegetarians.
- Many Buddhists and Sikhs are also vegetarians.
- Jews do not eat pork or shellfish, and many observe other rules, such as not eating meat and dairy products in the same meal.

Some people with no religious affiliations believe that it is wrong to eat animals and so they are vegetarians (no meat) or vegans (no meat, dairy or other animal products).

## Food safety

Food-borne illnesses are caused by consuming foods and beverages which have been contaminated by germs, parasites and toxins. Cholera, salmonella poisoning, typhoid, gastroenteritis and tapeworm infestation are examples of food-borne illnesses. Common symptoms of these types of illnesses include vomiting, diarrhoea, nausea, abdominal pain and fever. These diseases can be prevented by handling food safely.

Some food safety principles are:

- Wash hands with soap and water before preparing and handling food.
- All cuts or sores should be bandaged before handling foods.



- Ensure that all cooking and serving utensils are clean before use.
- Carefully wash fruits and vegetables before eating raw or cooking.
- Do not eat foods which have gone past the expiry or best-before dates on labels.
- Follow food safety instructions on labels, for example 'Keep refrigerated'.
- Buy canned foods which are free of rust, bulges and dents. Bulges may indicate that the food is spoilt and producing gas. Rust and dents may cause leaks in cans which allow germs to enter.
- Do not buy fruits and vegetables after floods; they might be contaminated with sewage.
- Keep raw meat, chicken, fish and eggs away from contact with other prepared foods or serving utensils. This prevents any germs present in the raw foods from contaminating cooked food or serving utensils. Also wash hands after handling these raw foods.
- Do not eat raw or undercooked meats, eggs, fish or shellfish. These may contain germs and parasites which are killed by heat during cooking.
- Food should be covered to protect it from flies and possible contamination by dust or insecticide sprays.
- Do not drink unpasteurised milk.
- Thaw meats and other frozen foods in the refrigerator or in the microwave. Do not thaw them at room temperature. Germs which may be present in frozen foods will have a longer time to multiply if foods are thawed at room temperature.
- Regularly sterilise sponges and other materials which are used for cleaning food preparation surfaces.
- Keep hot foods hot and cold foods cold.
- Food which appears to be spoilt should be thrown out and not eaten.
- As far as possible, when eating out, inspect your surroundings to see that they are

sanitary and that those preparing and handling food do so safely.

Street-side vending of foods is common in the Caribbean and provides a source of convenient and usually inexpensive food. However, street-vended foods can pose serious health problems if vendors do not consistently apply safe food handling practices.

### **Requirements for safe food handling by vendors**

- Vendors should cover foods properly to prevent contamination by dust, foreign matter and flies.
- Caps/head-coverings should be worn to prevent hair and germs from contaminating foods.
- Food vendors should wear clean clothing.
- Hands should be clean and nails kept short to avoid contaminating food with germs.
- Clean disposable gloves should be worn or clean tongs used when handling foods.
- Vendors should not handle money then touch foods with their hands.
- Vendors should refrain from touching mouth, nose, eyes, etc.
- They should refrain from spitting, coughing and sneezing on or near food.
- All food containers, utensils, napkins, cups and straws must be protected from contamination.
- The area around the vendor should be free of garbage and animals.
- Foods to be eaten hot should be kept hot and cold foods kept cold.
- A food vendor's badge or certificate should be prominently displayed, signifying that the vendor has undergone education in safe food handling practices and is deemed medically fit to sell food by the relevant authority.

### Food labelling

Food labels help us make healthy food choices and usually contain the following elements:

- Name of the food
- Nutrient facts
- Name and address of the manufacturer, distributor or packager
- Net weight or volume
- Preparation directions
- Storage instructions
- Dates, for example 'sell by', 'best if used by' and expiry dates

### Ingredients listing

Food labels usually have lists of the ingredients present in the particular foods. The ingredients can be divided into natural products and food additives. Natural products include carbohydrates, proteins, fats, vitamins, minerals, water and spices. Food additives include preservatives and colours.

### The nutrition facts label

This panel on the label gives information on the following:

- Serving size and servings per container: serving size is the amount of food that is contained in one serving. Quantities may be given in terms of cups, pieces or number of grams.
- Calories and calories from fat: this gives the amount of energy you get from one serving of the food. This section is important in helping persons manage their weight, since excess calories in the diet which are not used up during physical activity are linked to overweight and obesity. Excessive calorie intake also leaves one feeling lethargic and thirsty.
- % Daily Value: this tells us what portion of the recommended daily requirement of a nutrient is present in one serving of the food. This value is based on a daily 2000

calorie diet for most adults and children over the age of four. A person's daily diet may require more than or fewer than 2000 calories depending on whether they are very physically active or not.

### Physical fitness

#### The benefits of physical exercise

Regular physical activity is recognised as being an essential component of a healthy lifestyle. Such activity is important at all stages of life. Children and young people should be encouraged to be physically active because the benefits reach into adulthood. The risk of developing chronic lifestyle diseases such as diabetes and hypertension (high blood pressure) can be significantly reduced by engaging in regular physical activity from an early age.

WHO recommends participating in moderate-intensity physical activity for 30 minutes at least five times a week. The minimum might be 20 minutes at least three times a week. The activity should be vigorous enough to increase both the heart and breathing rates and make the individual sweat. Such a programme of physical activity benefits the body in the following ways:

- Muscles become stronger and respond more efficiently when active.
- Joints move more freely and this helps prevent the development of arthritis.
- Bones are strengthened and protected from becoming brittle.
- Exercise can help in weight control by reducing the amount of body fat present.
- During exercise the heart beats harder and faster and this makes it healthier. This helps reduce the risk of heart attacks and also improves blood circulation.
- Improved blood circulation causes the blood vessels to be more elastic and this reduces the risk of developing hypertension.
- The lungs become stronger and their capacity increases. This means that more air can be inhaled and oxygen transferred faster into the blood.

- The risk of developing diabetes is reduced since excess blood sugar and body fat are used during regular physical activity.
- Physical exercise releases hormones called endorphins which promote a feeling of well-being and help the body reduce stress levels.
- The overall functioning of the body is improved as food digests more effectively, bowel movements occur more regularly, the kidneys function better and increased perspiration removes waste products through the skin.
- Individuals may feel better about their bodies and health and so experience higher levels of self-esteem.

Physical fitness comprises:

- Cardio-respiratory endurance – the ability of the body to supply oxygen through the respiratory and circulatory systems during periods of sustained physical activity. Exercises to improve this endurance include running, walking, swimming, jumping rope, football, bicycling, tennis and aerobic dancing. Cardio-respiratory endurance improves the efficiency of the lungs and heart and increases the rate at which the body burns calories.
- Muscular strength – the ability of a muscle or group of muscles to exert force in a single effort. Muscular strength can be developed by various weight lifting exercises or by using body weight during exercises like squats, push ups, pull ups and abdominal crunches. Muscular strength helps persons perform everyday activities like lifting and carrying objects, and climbing stairs. It also keeps bones dense and strong.
- Muscular endurance – the ability of a muscle or group of muscles to make repeated actions without fatigue. Muscular endurance can be developed in the same way as muscular strength but using less resistance/weight and more repetitions. The benefits of muscular endurance are similar to those of muscular strength. It also helps persons to engage in physical activity without tiring easily and increases muscle mass while decreasing fat tissue.
- Flexibility – the ability to move joints and stretch muscles through their full range of motion. Slowly stretching muscles which move the major joints (e.g. joints of the arms and legs) increases flexibility. Flexibility is important in preventing injuries to muscles and joints. It also helps people to bend and move easily.

### Planning fitness programmes

When planning and implementing fitness programmes the following guidelines should be considered:

- Training should be done at least three days a week with sessions spread out over the week.
- Sessions should last for at least 20 minutes, during which exercises are done to improve fitness in cardio-respiratory endurance, muscular strength, muscular endurance and flexibility.
- Training should start at an intensity suited to the person's current level of fitness and should increase in intensity as the body becomes adapted to the exercises.

Additionally, each training session should include the following phases:

- Warm up (5–10 minutes)  
This involves doing light exercises for the entire body to warm up muscles and prepare the joints for the session. Light jogging and stretching are good warm up exercises.
- Fitness training (at least 20 minutes)  
Ideally, this phase should include exercises to improve the four components of physical fitness described in the previous section. Relevant exercises were also described for each component. However, the types of exercises chosen should be determined by students' interests, present levels of fitness and what they want to accomplish.
- Cool down (5–10 minutes)  
This final phase of the session should include light exercises similar to those of the warm up phase. This phase helps the body remove waste products like carbon dioxide and lactic

## EATING AND FITNESS THEME

acid which will have built up in the muscles during training. It also prevents blood from accumulating in the muscles, muscle soreness and stiffness.

### Safe exercise

Everyone, but especially growing children, needs to take care when engaging in sport or physical exercise. Some guidelines include:

- Wear appropriate safety gear or use appropriate safety equipment.
- Drink plenty of water during or after exercise.
- Warm up at the beginning and cool down afterwards with appropriate exercises.
- Take especial care to monitor any students with health problems such as asthma, and if in doubt they should check with their doctor.
- Increase exercise gradually over a period of time.

## Eating and fitness behaviours

### Eating behaviour

Eating behaviour is influenced by the following factors:

1. Economic factors – the amount of money an individual or family possesses usually determines the quantity and types of foods which can be purchased.
2. Biological factors
  - Age – a baby has special dietary needs and habits because of its early stage in life. The ‘growth spurt’ characteristic of the teen years is generally associated with an increase in food consumption. The elderly also have special nutritional needs/behaviours related to a reduction in activity levels and the body’s inability to digest food as efficiently as before.
  - Gender – the greater muscle mass of males requires more energy to function optimally and so men tend to eat larger quantities of food than women. The loss of blood during the menstrual cycle requires that females have more iron in their diets than

males. Pregnancy is marked by special nutritional requirements and behaviours.

- Health issues – persons with health conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, stomach ulcers and high cholesterol levels need to limit the kinds of foods they eat.

### 3. Social factors

- The influence the peer group extends to eating behaviours, since there is a tendency to follow the eating patterns of the rest of the group.
- The influence of the media on lifestyles is undeniable. Food advertisements and television programmes showing the eating habits of other cultures influence eating behaviours.

### 4. Cultural factors

- Traditions – national and family traditions influence eating behaviours daily and seasonally. Families may traditionally eat main meals around noon or in the evening. Larger quantities and special types of foods may be eaten related to the ‘season’ of the year being celebrated nationally.
- Ethnicity – there are foods which are associated with specific ethnic groups, for example Indian, African, ‘Creole’, Chinese food. Ethnic groups may also have different eating patterns in terms of the quantities and types of foods which are eaten for breakfast, lunch and dinner.
- Religion – some religious groups place restrictions on the types of food which may be eaten. For example, some religions forbid the eating of pork or beef and some advocate vegetarianism. Fasting also plays a role of varying prominence among religions. See page 61.

### Fitness behaviours

Factors influencing fitness behaviours include:

1. Economic factors – some fitness activities are more expensive than others in terms of equipment, gear, facilities and special supervision/training which may be required.

2. Biological factors

- Age – the age of a person influences their physical capability to engage in different kinds of fitness activities, and the frequency and intensity of the activity. For example, young persons may be able to engage in very vigorous activities like football while the elderly might find walking more suited to their abilities.
- Physical attributes and abilities – a person's physical attributes and abilities may either enhance or reduce their tendency to participate in specific fitness activities. For example, someone who is very short may shy away from participating in basketball while someone with a naturally muscular build may be drawn to weight training.
- Health issues – certain health conditions like heart conditions, sickle cell anaemia and respiratory disorders (e.g. asthma) may limit individuals to certain types of fitness activities which are safe for them.

3. Social factors – the media and peers influence fitness behaviours in much the same way they influence eating behaviours by stimulating the desire to 'fit in' or subscribe to some standard that is portrayed as desirable. The media tend to portray thin and muscular physiques as the most desirable body types and may advocate frequent high-intensity workouts using various expensive pieces of equipment.

4. Cultural factors

- Gender roles – fitness activities may be labelled as being 'female' and 'male' activities in some cultures. So females may be discouraged from participating in activities that are seen as masculine in nature and vice versa. For example, some still think of activities like football and cricket as being predominantly masculine sports.
- Ethnicity – there may be the perception that certain ethnic groups excel at specific fitness activities.

- Traditions – some families have fitness traditions which are passed on from parents to children.

## **Reducing 'lifestyle' diseases: heart disease, diabetes and hypertension**

Heart disease is the number one cause of death in the Caribbean, with diabetes and hypertension ranked fourth and sixth (CAREC, 2005). These lifestyle diseases can be prevented and controlled by having healthy diets and being physically active.

Obesity is a medical condition in which excess body fat accumulates, causing a number of adverse effects on a person's health. It is a risk factor for high blood pressure, heart disease and strokes, as well as cancers and osteoarthritis. It is estimated that up to 30 per cent of people in some Caribbean countries are obese. Obesity is associated with a sedentary lifestyle, decreased activity levels, and dietary changes, especially the increase in high fat/high carbohydrate, energy-dense foods. There is also increasing obesity among children, and obese children usually become obese adults.

For adults, determining obesity and overweight categories is done using BMI (body mass index), using weight over height. This gives a rough estimate of body fat. An adult BMI of under 25 is normal, 25 to 29.9. is overweight and over 30 is obese. For children age must also be taken into account.

Obese children are more likely to have:

- high blood pressure and high cholesterol, risk factors for heart disease and stroke
- increased risk of diabetes
- breathing problems, such as asthma
- joint problems
- liver disease
- social and psychological problems, such as poor self-esteem.

Diabetes is a disease caused by the pancreas producing little or no insulin. Insulin is a

## EATING AND FITNESS THEME

hormone which controls blood sugar levels. Diabetes is treated first by diet and exercise. In severe cases, where the body produces no insulin, the individual has to be injected daily with insulin. Diabetes can cause blindness, kidney and nerve damage and slow-healing wounds. Diabetics are usually advised to limit their intake of starchy foods and sugars and eat complex carbohydrates which release sugars slowly.

Hypertension or high blood pressure causes problems with blood flow in the arteries and can develop as a result of stress and other factors such as obesity, lack of exercise and high cholesterol. Hypertension can cause heart attacks and strokes, which can be fatal. High salt intake in the diet is a risk factor for developing hypertension or high blood pressure. Persons suffering from this disease are encouraged to use salt sparingly or not to add it, as it is already present in many foods.

Heart disease and strokes both result from the build-up of fatty material in the arteries (the blood vessels which carry blood and oxygen to the heart), which causes them to narrow. If the arteries become very narrow they cannot deliver enough oxygen to the heart and this can cause angina (chest pain). If a piece of the fatty deposit breaks away it can cause a blood clot in the artery and cut off the supply of oxygen to the heart entirely. This is a heart attack, and it can permanently damage the heart or be fatal. A stroke occurs when the blood clot occurs in an artery to the brain, cutting off the blood and oxygen supply to the brain.

Saturated fats are usually solid at room temperature and are found in meat, poultry and dairy products. Saturated fats contribute to the level of 'bad' cholesterol in the blood which increases the risk of heart disease. Unsaturated fat is usually liquid at room temperature and is found in fish and plant products.

Fats, sugars and salt may be 'hidden' in foods. For example, sugars may be present as corn syrup, high fructose corn syrup and fruit juice concentrate; fats may be present in shortening; salt is usually present in seasonings added to foods.

### Reducing salt

- Always check food labels for the salt or sodium content. A product high in salt is one that has above 1.25 g of salt per 100 g or 0.5 g of sodium per 100 g. A product low in salt is one that has 0.25 g or less of salt per 100 g or 0.1 g or less of sodium. The Daily Value for sodium based on a 2000 calorie daily diet is 2400 mg.
- Cut down on salty snacks, such as chips, cheese sticks/curls and salted nuts, and heavily salted foods such as salt fish, bacon, cheese, corned beef, smoked herring.
- Do not add salt to food.
- Eat fresh rather than canned foods. Salt is usually added to these as a preservative.
- Season foods with spices and herbs instead of salt.
- Select foods that are labelled salt-free or low salt.

### Reducing fat

- Always check the food label for fat content. 20 g or more of fat per 100 g is considered high, while 3 g or less per 100 g is considered low in fat. In terms of saturated fat, 5 g or more per 100 g is considered high and 1 g or less per 100 g is considered low in saturated fat. The Daily Value for total fat based on a 2000 calorie daily diet is 65 g, while that for saturated fat is 20 g.
- Eat lean meats or trim fat from meats and poultry.
- Reduce the intake of fried foods. Choose broiled, baked or steamed foods instead of fried foods.
- Use butter, margarine, cheese, mayonnaise or salad dressings sparingly.
- Select low-fat or fat-free products.

### Reducing sugar

- Always check the food label for sugar content. A product with high sugar content is one that has 10 g or more of sugar per



100 g. A product low in sugar contains 2 g or less per 100 g. There is no recommended Daily Value for sugar.

- Always check the ingredient list on food labels. Watch out for other words used to describe sugar such as sucrose, glucose (syrup), fructose, hydrolysed starch and invert sugar.
- Avoid drinks that are very high in sugar, such as carbonated/fizzy drinks or juice. Instead, choose unsweetened fruit juice or water.
- Limit the number of cakes, biscuits and sweets you eat. Try eating fresh or dried fruit instead.
- Reduce the amount of sugar you add to hot and cold drinks.
- Select foods that are labelled sugar-free.

## Resources

### Nutrition

'Caribbean Food Groups: A guide to meal planning for healthy eating', prepared by the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (CFNI). This guide may be viewed at the website 'Six food groups for the Caribbean':

[http://www.paho.org/English/CFNI/six\\_food\\_groups.ppt](http://www.paho.org/English/CFNI/six_food_groups.ppt)

Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute. *Healthy Eating for Better Living: A Caribbean Handbook*. 2002. Chapter 2 'What is good nutrition?' and Appendix I: 'Unravelling the nutrients: what they do and where they are found'.

<http://www.paho.org/English/CFNI/cfni-HealthyEatingFBL.PDF>

Food Standards Agency. 'Top tips for a healthier lunchbox'. 2004.

<http://www.food.gov.uk/news/newsarchive/2004/sep/toplunchboxtips>

'Nutrition for children and teens'. Authors: Maya W. Paul and Lawrence Robinson. 2014. [http://www.helpguide.org/life/healthy\\_eating\\_children\\_teens.htm](http://www.helpguide.org/life/healthy_eating_children_teens.htm)

More about vitamins:

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/002399.htm>

Safe food handling:

USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service food safety factsheets

<http://tinyurl.com/oleul5n>

WHO. *Essential safety requirements for street-vended foods*. 1996.

<http://www.who.int/foodsafety/publications/street-vended-food/en>

### Fitness

Children's health and fitness:

[http://kidshealth.org/kid/stay\\_healthy/](http://kidshealth.org/kid/stay_healthy/)

WHO recommendations for physical activity:

[http://www.who.int/dietphysicalactivity/factsheet\\_myths/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/dietphysicalactivity/factsheet_myths/en/index.html)

'Exercise: 7 benefits of regular physical activity'.

<http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/exercise/HQ01676>

*Journal of the American Medical Association*.

2005. Patient Page: Fitness. Janet M. Torpy.

<http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/full/294/23/3048>

HeartPoint. 'Being physically fit'. 1997.

<http://www.heartpoint.com/exercise%20for%20health.html>

### Lifestyle diseases

Preventing injury and illness:

Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

'Overweight and obesity: Causes and consequences'. 2007.

<http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpa/obesity/consequences.htm>

National Diabetes Information Clearing House.

'Diabetes, heart disease, and stroke'.

<http://diabetes.niddk.nih.gov/dm/pubs/stroke/>



University of Pittsburgh. 'Some trustworthy sources of health and medical information on the internet'. 2006.

[http://www.wheelchairnet.org/WCN\\_Living/Docs/healthinfo.html](http://www.wheelchairnet.org/WCN_Living/Docs/healthinfo.html)

### **Managing the Environment theme**

The regional standards focus on the interrelationships in sustainable natural environments, environmental threats to health and their causes, the importance of a sustainable healthy environment for our health and well-being, reducing environmental health threats, protecting the environment and accessing age-appropriate information about managing the environment.

Some of the key ideas include: what the environment is; our appreciation, enjoyment and valuing of the environment and its resources; the impact of human activity on the environment – we can change, adapt, preserve, enhance, degrade or destroy it; the sustainable use and protection of our environment; the effects of technologies; and interrelations between quality of life, health and quality of the environment.

As in the other themes, issues are dealt with at three levels – individual, personal relationships and the wider world. At each of these levels, different life skills are more important.

### **The environment**

The environment is often said to be 'everything around you'. It is made up of the natural and the built (human-made) environment.

#### **The natural environment**

The natural environment comprises the **physical** (non-living) and **biological** (living) environments. The physical environment consists of our air, land and water, which can all be harmed by pollution.

- Air can become polluted by natural activities (e.g. volcanoes) and man's activities (burning

garbage or oil/gasoline, industrial processes, the spread of germs).

- Water includes fresh water (rivers, lakes, groundwater, as well as drinking water provided to people) and saltwater (seas, oceans and lagoons). Water can become polluted by chemical pesticides, fertilisers and sewage; oils and other pollutants dumped by ships; chemicals from factories sinking into groundwater and entering rivers and the sea; and soil from eroded hillsides entering rivers.
- Land includes mountains, valleys, fields, the soils and minerals which we get from the land. Land can become polluted from garbage dumped improperly and the overuse of chemical pesticides and fertilisers.

The biological (living) environment is composed of plants (flora), ranging from algae to grasses and trees; and animals (fauna), ranging from bacteria to insects to fish, reptiles, birds and mammals – including humans.

Everything in the natural environment works together and is a functioning system. The non-living components work with the living components and everything keeps in balance. People also interact or work with both the living and non-living components of their environment.

#### **The built environment**

The built environment refers to human-made (man-made) infrastructure designed to support human activity. It includes all buildings such as homes, schools, hospitals and workplaces, as well as roads and railway lines, electric transmission lines and sewage pipes. Usually development of the built environment within the natural environment causes damaging effects, such as the removal of forests, the dredging of coastlines or harbours, or pollution. Squatter settlements occur in areas on the outskirts of cities and towns. The lands where people self-construct their housing units are usually not owned or rented by the squatters. While these settlements often start as informal developments, they may be regularised by governments after a long period. They

generally have no water or sewage services, and often electricity is taken illegally from nearby cables. It is a major issue throughout the developing world.

Motor cars, buses, trucks and lorries are now common forms of transport in all countries. Students face hazardous conditions when walking or cycling. They need to be reminded of the rules for safe use of the roads.

### Natural resources

The environment provides us with natural resources, for example trees to make furniture and paper, the air we breathe, oil to make fuels and plastic, land space to dispose of garbage, etc. We use these to meet our basic needs: food, shelter, clothing, clean air and water.

Natural resources can be considered as either renewable or non-renewable. There is a finite amount of non-renewable resources (fossil fuels like oil, natural gas and coal, minerals such as bauxite and gold, materials like limestone). Once they are used, they are gone for ever. The key is to use these resources as efficiently as possible. For example, if we conserve energy, we will not need to produce as much oil.

Note that coal, which is mined from beneath the Earth's surface (and is generally not much used in the Caribbean), is different from charcoal, which is created by burning trees in a controlled manner (which is frequently done in the Caribbean).

Renewable resources (water, trees/forests, sun, wildlife – including fish and other marine and aquatic life) can replenish themselves if managed carefully. But renewable resources are vulnerable to over-exploitation. For example, if too many fish – especially young fish – are caught, the fish population will collapse.

### Sustainable living

Living sustainably means not taking more out of the planet than we are putting back in, or leaving resources for future generations.

**Sustainable development** means keeping the environment healthy for the future and using

our natural resources wisely so that future generations can meet their needs and live as well as we do. It is to be aimed at during all changes made to the environment.

'Futures thinking' means that people not only consider what is happening today, but what these actions might lead to in the future. With this mind-set, students focus on themselves and their actions, and this leads to positive, healthy self-management.

### Biodiversity

Biodiversity is the variety of plants and animals (including micro-organisms) either in a particular place or on planet Earth. The Caribbean is a very biodiverse region of the world. Biodiversity does not just refer to a variety of species, but also the variety of genes possessed by living things, and the variety of ecosystems. Many Caribbean governments have signed the Convention on Biological Diversity, which is dedicated to promoting sustainable development.

Biodiversity is vital for supporting all life on Earth. Humans have always depended on it for food, clean water, clean air, fertile soil, health and well-being. An ecosystem with only a few types of plants or animals could be affected by pests or a virus that killed some or all of them, changing the whole ecosystem. The more variety there is in an ecosystem, the more likely it is to remain healthy and balanced, even in times of change. This is why we say that biodiversity is nature's insurance policy – it guards against environmental changes, diseases and disasters.

Agriculture depends on maintaining biodiversity. More than 60 wild species have been used to improve the world's 13 major crops by providing genes for pest resistance, improved yield, and enhanced nutrition. In addition, more than 70,000 different plant species are used in traditional and modern medicine.

Biodiversity is affected by the removal of habitats and therefore loss of species, for example when people clear land for farming; by

## MANAGING THE ENVIRONMENT THEME

pollution of our land, air and water; by climate change, which causes heavier rains, more droughts, stronger storms, higher temperatures in some places and rising sea levels; by the introduction of new species which often crowd out native plants or kill native animals; and by over-exploitation – harvesting too many plants and animals so that they cannot replace themselves.

### Useful terms relating to biodiversity

- **Endemic** – an organism that is found only in one country or region and nowhere else in the world. Some of these plants and animals are protected by law. Some endemic species are endangered, because of loss of habitat or over-exploitation.
- **Endangered** plants and animals are considered threatened because their populations are low. Not all endangered species are endemic; some endangered plants and animals are found in many countries (e.g. the West Indian Manatee and American Crocodile).
- **Extinct** plants and animals are those which have died out everywhere – they are no longer present on the Earth.
- It may be useful to know the difference between **endemic** and **indigenous**. An **indigenous** species is native to the particular country – it was not brought there from another country (e.g., mongoose and bamboo, which were brought into the Caribbean from Asia, are **not** indigenous). While an endemic species is necessarily indigenous, many indigenous plants or animals are native to more than one country.
- The words **flora** and **fauna** are scientific terms: flora are plants and fauna animals.
- **Ecosystems** are communities of plants and animals in an area which interact with the non-living elements of their environment, such as climate, water and soil. An ecosystem can be as small as a pond or as big as the Amazon rainforest. Examples of ecosystems are deserts, coral reefs, forests, beaches, mangroves and even cities and towns. You

can think of ecosystems as consisting of the relationships among physical natural resources, habitats and the ‘residents’ (the plants and animals, including people) in an area.

Native ecosystems can be changed dramatically by the introduction of foreign species – known as ‘invasive’ species. Two important Caribbean examples are bamboo – which has taken over many parts of the landscape, displacing other trees – and the lionfish from Asia, which has no local predators and eats huge amounts of the local fish which our fishermen depend on for their livelihoods.

Ecosystems can also be altered dramatically by human actions such as clearing forests for farming or houses, or polluting rivers so that they cannot support life. A dramatic example of this is a ‘fish kill’, where scores of dead fish are seen floating in a river.

- A **habitat** is the home or environment of a particular plant or animal species. Habitats with different characteristics exist within ecosystems and provide four very important elements: food, water, shelter and space. Each plant or animal is suited to its habitat. In natural environments, habitats are kept free from pollution by natural processes and cycles. However, when humans live in these environments they change them by removing trees, soil and rocks, and generate pollution. This causes serious problems for living things.

Useful videos on topics related to ecosystems and habitats are available online at <http://www.neok12.com/Ecosystems.htm>

There are environmental protection agencies in all countries, which conserve the natural environment (plants, animals and their habitats). All Caribbean governments have laws that protect endemic and endangered species.

## Special environments and ecosystems

### Marine environments

Although seagrasses are often removed because people think of them as a nuisance, seagrass beds are integral to the existence of beaches. The roots of seagrasses stabilise the sea floor and prevent coastal erosion by absorbing the wave actions that might disturb the sand or mud. They trap sediments and keep the water clear, and provide food and shelter for many kinds of marine organisms.

Seagrasses are threatened by human disturbance, mechanical removal and overfishing. They are also affected by sewage and fertiliser run-off, which increase the population of algae. The algae block sunlight from reaching the seagrass so it cannot photosynthesise, and deprive organisms that live with the seagrass of oxygen. The sewage and chemicals may also cause over-growth of the sea grasses.

Coral reefs are beautiful places to visit and admire. They also provide protection and shelter for many different species of fish and sand for our beaches. They protect coasts from strong currents and waves by slowing down the water before it gets to the shore, and they are important sources of new medicines.

Threats to coral reefs include diseases (bacterial, viral); silt from rivers; an increase in sea temperature; and sewage, which causes over-growth of some algae, preventing sunlight from reaching the algae living inside the corals. Storms and hurricane waves also damage coral reefs.

Sea turtles are a good example of an endangered species. The four species that live in the Caribbean are all endangered, owing to harvesting for their meat, shells or eggs, and removal of their nesting beaches by human activity and lighting. The turtles will only lay their eggs on the beaches in the dark.

### Endangered Caribbean sea turtles

Name	Size and appearance	Lifespan, diet and habitat
<b>Leatherback</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Largest turtle – can grow up to 2 m long and weigh 900 kg</li> <li>• Has a rubbery, flexible carapace (shell)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Matures at age 30 and can live up to 100 years</li> <li>• Carnivorous</li> </ul>
<b>Hawksbill</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has long flippers with a pair of claws on each one</li> <li>• The carapace has jagged edges and was used for decorative purposes</li> <li>• Has a beak like a bird's</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lives 30–50 years in the wild</li> <li>• Eats mainly sponges and jellyfish, but also sea urchins and fish</li> <li>• Lives on coral reefs</li> </ul>
<b>Green turtle</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Previously harvested for meat and can weigh up to 320 kg</li> <li>• Bred for years in Cayman, but now the farm is a tourist attraction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can live over 80 years in the wild</li> <li>• Likes to come onto beaches to sun itself</li> <li>• Feeds on seagrasses and algae</li> </ul>
<b>Loggerhead</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beautiful patterns on shells, which are the hardest of all turtles'</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lives 30–70 years</li> <li>• Lives in seagrass beds and eats mainly crabs, molluscs, jellyfish</li> </ul>

### Wetlands

Wetlands are special ecosystems characterised by trees and shrubs growing in shallow water. The roots of these plants are modified to live with little oxygen in the soil, and do not rot when they are covered with water. The soils in wetlands may be covered with water throughout the year or for part of the year.

There are different kinds of wetlands:

- Marshes are usually found in colder countries and have mainly grasses.
- Bogs and fens are also found in cold countries and have a mixture of grasses, shrubs and trees.
- Swamps are found in warm or hot countries and consist mainly of trees.

Wetlands perform a variety of important services for humans:

- They store excess water to prevent flooding.
- They help to filter and purify water.
- Tree roots in wetlands trap sediment and prevent it from clogging rivers and from draining out to sea to smother coral reefs.
- They provide a habitat for many different animals such as birds, crabs, butterflies, frogs, saltwater crocodiles and crayfish.
- They provide us with food, for example fish, crayfish, crabs.

An important and interesting wetland in Guyana is the North Rupununi wetland area, where flooding from the nearby rivers during May to September and December to January produces these wetland areas. There are several endangered species living there, including the giant otter, black caiman and giant river turtle. The area is threatened by a new highway being built across Guyana to Brazil, which will open up new areas of forest and wetland for exploitation (mining, lumbering, large scale agriculture). This will further endanger the natural plants and animals.

Mangrove wetlands are found throughout most of the Caribbean. They are usually seen at the edges of river estuaries and at the edge of the sea. Most

mangrove wetlands consist of trees and are either woodlands or forests, depending on their heights. There are four different mangrove species in the Caribbean, which are home to many different species of other plants and animals.

Mangroves are useful because:

- they provide a roosting area for many sea birds
- their roots help to stabilise the sandy ground and are a good protective nursery for many fish
- they act as a barrier to storm waves and protect the land behind the trees as well as roads and houses built there
- they provide habitats for many animals such as birds, crocodiles, turtles, oysters, hermit crabs and shrimp, and are a major tourist attraction in some countries
- they provide timber and medicines.

Threats to mangrove wetlands are: physical removal by humans; filling up of swamps for building roads and houses; pollution from sewage, chemicals and garbage. Mangroves are being destroyed rapidly in the Caribbean, although in some countries experiments are being undertaken to replant them.

Information on wetlands may be obtained from your national environmental agency, or from environmental NGOs.

### Pollution and health threats

Pollution of the air, land and water can affect human health in a number of ways. Governments make regulations that will prevent pollution and they also take actions to reduce it (by keeping the water supply clean and collecting garbage).

Health threats are any things or processes that cause negative effects on our health. Sometimes these threats come from polluted air, water or food, but they can also come from events such as hurricanes and earthquakes, or from animals such as mosquitoes, cockroaches, flies and rats (pests).

Below are tables of the most common pollutants, their sources or causes, and their impacts.

**Air pollutants**

<b>Pollutant</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Health/environmental impact</b>
Particulate matter (tiny particles)	Motor vehicles, factories, burning garbage	Aggravates respiratory illnesses, e.g. asthma; may lead to emphysema in long term
Carbon monoxide (outside or in well-ventilated spaces, carbon monoxide quickly becomes carbon dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> ))	Motor vehicles, factories, burning garbage	Causes headaches and fatigue at lower levels; mental impairment or death at higher levels
Carbon dioxide	Motor vehicles, factories, burning garbage, burning wood/forests	Contributes to climate change – a major global environmental problem
Sulphur oxides	Electric power plants, factories	Aggravates respiratory illnesses, e.g. asthma; may lead to emphysema in long term
Nitrogen oxides	Motor vehicles, factories	Aggravates respiratory illnesses, e.g. asthma; may lead to emphysema in long term
Acid deposition	Formed when sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides in the atmosphere combine with water to form acids which fall back to the ground	Corrodes metals and building materials; reduces populations of aquatic animals and birds; can weaken trees
Cigarette smoke	Tobacco and cigarettes: second-hand smoke is emitted by a person who is smoking, and affects all persons who inhale it – not only the smoker	Respiratory diseases, e.g. asthma; cigarette smoke contains carcinogenic substances and causes cancer
Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and Hydro-chlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs)	In some air conditioners and fire-fighting foams (mostly now banned)	CFCs and HCFCs damage the ozone layer high in the atmosphere; the ozone layer protects us from the harmful ultraviolet rays of the Sun, which cause skin cancers



**Water pollutants**

<b>Pollutant</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Health impact</b>
Treated and untreated sewage	Waste water from drains, sewers, gullies	Can carry pathogens leading to infectious diseases and contamination of aquatic life; can lead to rivers being overgrown by algae resulting in harm and even death to aquatic life; humans can get diarrhoea, cholera, typhoid fever, hepatitis A and dysentery
Fertilisers and animal wastes	Run-off from farm land	Can lead to rivers being overgrown by algae resulting in harm and even death of aquatic life; humans can get diarrhoea, dysentery and other diseases
Synthetic chemicals	Pesticides, herbicides, cleaning solvents, industrial chemicals from landfills and factories	Contaminates groundwater and surface water, causing poor-quality drinking water; may cause cancer and liver and kidney diseases in humans
Solid waste	Improperly disposed of garbage from homes, offices and businesses	Can threaten aquatic life

**Land pollutants**

<b>Pollutant</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Health impact</b>
Solid waste	Improperly disposed of garbage from homes, offices and businesses	Can lead to diseases carried by animals such as rats, mosquitoes and cockroaches
Pesticides and herbicides in soil	Farm use	May cause cancer and liver and kidney diseases in humans
Lead	Old batteries – lead used to be emitted into the air from cars using leaded gasoline, but now only unleaded gas is used; however, operations that smelt lead batteries and refurbish batteries deposit a high lead concentration in the soil	Can cause poor brain development in children

Rats carrying leptospirosis	Rats feed on garbage left around	Leptospirosis is spread to humans through direct contact with the urine of infected animals or by contact with water or soil contaminated by urine
Mosquitoes carrying malaria, chikungunya and dengue fever	Water in garbage (e.g. old tyres and empty cans); flooded and swampy areas	Malaria is spread by the <i>Anopheles</i> mosquito and dengue by the <i>Aedes</i> mosquito; these two diseases are referred to as mosquito-borne or vector-borne diseases

**Pest control**

Pest control is an important and costly activity for both individuals and governments. Often pests can be controlled by good environmental behaviours that cost nothing. However, when pests get out of hand, epidemics have to be dealt with by mechanical (traps) or chemical means (sprays).

Pesticides commonly cause air, water and land pollution. Insecticides (a type of pesticide) are very dangerous chemicals. They kill insects (useful ones as well as pests), but may also poison other animals and can burn the leaves of some plants. They also may cause humans to become sick.

**The environment and disease**

While there are many problems associated with air and water pollution, air-borne and water-borne diseases are primarily related to diseases caused by pathogens (germs).

**Air-borne diseases**

These are diseases caused by pathogens transmitted through the air. Air-borne pathogens may cause inflammation in the nose, throat, sinuses and the lungs, leading to sinus congestion, coughing and sore throats. Examples of common air-borne diseases are chickenpox, influenza, bronchitis, measles and tuberculosis. These diseases are highly contagious; the pathogens can be spread through coughing, sneezing, laughing or through close personal contact.

High levels of pathogens may result from the discharge of inadequately treated sewage.

In the Caribbean, this could be from sewage treatment plants which are not working – and which are sometimes overwhelmed during heavy rains – or from the practice of direct dumping of human body waste. Another source of pathogens is poorly managed livestock operations.

**Water-borne diseases**

These are illnesses caused by drinking or coming in contact with water contaminated by human or animal faeces which may contain pathogens. Examples of common water-borne diseases are diarrhoea, cholera, typhoid fever, hepatitis A and dysentery.

Diarrhoeal diseases may also be contracted by eating food that is prepared by sick persons who have not washed their hands, or from coming into contact with sick persons. It is important to convey the importance of proper hygiene (e.g. washing hands) to students, so that they avoid spreading as well as catching these diseases.

Health impacts caused by swimming in contaminated water include not only gastrointestinal illnesses but also skin, ear, respiratory, eye and wound infections.

Some other sources of information about air- and water-borne diseases and health impacts of pollution are:

<http://www.lenntech.com/library/diseases/diseases/water-borne-diseases.htm>

[http://www.nutrained.com/Air/airborne\\_diseases.htm](http://www.nutrained.com/Air/airborne_diseases.htm)

### Global warming and climate change

There is a lot of evidence to show that the Earth is getting warmer. Sea temperatures are rising year on year. Ice at both the poles is melting and in the Arctic it is predicted that the permanent thick ice cap will almost disappear by 2020. As a result of this, sunlight will be absorbed by the sea and not be reflected back up into the atmosphere in the summer months, and so warming will increase even more. Polar bears will lose their habitat.

This increase in temperatures has a number of different effects. As water in the oceans warms it expands, so sea levels rise. Melting polar ice adds a little to this. Sea-level rises threaten whole countries, such as the Maldives, with flooding, and large areas where people now live and farm, such as Bangladesh, may be under water in a few years' time. Global warming is affecting the health of coral reefs.

Increased temperatures also mean melting of snow and ice elsewhere in the world and changes to the amounts of water available for irrigation, and to local climates. Global warming may also affect the world's system of ocean currents and winds, but scientists are not yet sure exactly how.

There is also broad scientific agreement that this is not just a natural phenomenon but the result of human activities. Global warming has been happening much faster since the industrial revolution, and even faster in the last 25 years.

Global warming results in:

- an increase in global surface temperature
- more intense storms and hurricanes
- greater weather variability, leading to both increased rainfall and increased drought
- sea-level rise
- an increase in sea temperatures which could lead to coral bleaching (resulting in the death of coral reefs)
- greater incidence of vector-borne diseases such as dengue fever and malaria.

We are beginning to see changes in our climate patterns over the world, with more extremes of weather, such as increased flooding, droughts and worse hurricanes. For example, as the sea temperatures in the Caribbean rise, this is likely to cause worse storms and hurricanes.

Climate change and global warming are a direct result of the way we produce and consume energy. Most of our energy at the moment comes from fossil fuels: oil, coal and natural gas. When we burn fossil fuels or wood, gases are released into the atmosphere. They include carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane, chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), water vapour and a variety of other gases. These gases form a layer in the atmosphere and trap the sun's heat. They are called 'greenhouse gases' because the effect is rather like the warming of a greenhouse in the sun. Greenhouse gas emissions are caused by many human activities: household uses, transport, industries, power stations, forest fires or burning, even rearing livestock, especially cattle.

By saving energy or using renewable energy, we can save fossil fuels and cut down the amount of greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere (also called carbon emissions). Scientists are now looking at trying to 'lock up' carbon in the sea or in trees to prevent carbon emissions.

Many of the technical and human solutions to this problem are already within reach or actually available. The problem is whether we can act together in time. Human solutions depend on millions of individuals and families acting together; for example, even by switching off a TV at the plug at night, rather than leaving it on standby, we can save a quarter of the electricity the TV would use over a year. There are lots of small actions like this which we can take and which students can identify, to save energy. Technological solutions can come in the form of more energy-efficient appliances, such as electric vehicles, and renewable energy sources such as solar cell phone chargers, solar (pv) panels and solar thermal panels, hydro-electricity, wind power turbines and newer ideas such as bio-energy from algae.

Our carbon footprint is the impact our daily life has on the planet, in terms of the amount of greenhouse gases produced, measured in units of carbon dioxide. The main way in which we contribute carbon emissions is through our fuel consumption, such as travel (air travel is especially bad), and electrical consumption at home – air conditioning, fridges, cooking, etc. Every time we turn on the TV or open the fridge for a cold drink we are adding to global warming. We also contribute to global warming through the things we buy and consume – items such as CDs, T-shirts and food all take energy to produce.

You can calculate your carbon footprint using a 'carbon calculator'. There are many different ones available on the internet.

### Reducing waste

One way to help our environment is to think about what we use and try to reduce our waste. This means we will have less impact on the environment. Waste is what we throw away, but everything we dispose of has to go somewhere else. Most of it goes in landfill but many landfill sites are nearly full, and some pollute the areas around them when gases or chemicals in fluids leak out. Also, when we throw things away we are losing the natural and human resources we used to make them. For example, if we throw glass bottles away they take thousands of years to break down, and when we need another glass bottle we have to make it from scratch using scarce resources. All the effort, energy and materials which went into the ones we have thrown away have been lost.

A useful way to reduce waste is through remembering the Rs:

- Resources – use less of them.
- Reduce your consumption and reduce your waste.
- Rescue things which can be re-used or recycled.
- Refuse unnecessary packaging or goods which use lots of energy to make (e.g. aluminium).

- Re-use things and Repair them whenever possible.
- Recycle resources and materials, such as paper, glass and aluminium.

For primary students you may wish to keep to the commonly known Three Rs:

- Reduce (waste), for example use containers over and over instead of disposable ones.
- Re-use (as much as possible), for example create a notepad using paper already used or printed on one side.
- Recycle (materials), for example glass bottles can be melted down to make new bottles.

Composting is a form of recycling – using kitchen and yard waste to create mulch which is useful for potting out plants and improving soil in garden beds.

### Natural cycles and chains

There are several natural cycles and chains of which students should become aware. Nature constantly recycles its materials.

The importance of the water cycle is that water is an essential and main element of the bodies of all living things. (See the diagram on page 62 of Student's Book 5.)

The importance of the carbon cycle is that carbon is an essential part of all living things as well as being found in fossil fuels such as oil, natural gas and coal which are widely used throughout the world. (See the diagram on page 63 of Student's Book 5.) Petroleum (oil) and natural gas were formed millions of years ago when tiny marine organisms died and were crushed under the pressure of water and tons of rock. The heat and pressure turned these carbon-containing organisms into petroleum and natural gas – known as fossil fuels.

In nature carbon is recycled, so that the amount in the atmosphere is kept the same, and this keeps the Earth's atmosphere at a temperature comfortable for living organisms; for example, the oceans trap some carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and the plants remove CO<sub>2</sub> in photosynthesis. However, the burning of fossil fuels by humans

causes much more CO<sub>2</sub> to be released into the atmosphere. Since we are also removing trees and other plants, the level of carbon dioxide is building up in the atmosphere, which is causing global warming (see page 77).

Energy is obtained from the Sun and passed to plants and then to animals from their food. Both plants and animals use up the energy to do work (e.g. growing, moving), and some energy is wasted as heat. The energy cannot be recycled – once it is used, that is the end. It is a chain, and **not** a cycle. You can teach students about food chains within ecosystems.

### Natural hazards and natural disasters

There is a difference between a natural *hazard* and a natural *disaster*. A natural hazard is a naturally occurring event that poses a threat to human life or property. Examples of natural hazards are storms, floods, drought, forest fires, earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunamis, epidemics. A natural hazard becomes a natural disaster if it takes place in a populated area and causes loss of life and/or damage to property. Mitigation actions can prevent or reduce the negative impacts of natural hazards (e.g. cleaning out gullies or not throwing away garbage there in the first place). Recovery actions are done after the event (e.g. repairing roads, using chlorine in drinking water until the water supplies are safe).

Natural hazards can have severe effects on both the natural and built environments. Natural resources are damaged, landscapes are changed, buildings are destroyed. People are usually badly affected if they have not made adequate preparations or evacuated from danger-prone areas. Natural hazards often affect the elderly and young children the most. Both these groups need greater care and consideration from others. When they are displaced from their usual home, they often become disoriented and are unable to function normally. This affects their physical health as well as their mental and emotional health.

It is important for students to learn about the effects of natural hazards, so that they

may consider how to prepare for them. Each natural hazard will require a different kind of preparation, so students have to be taught the various actions to be taken.

### Hurricanes

Hurricanes are one kind of tropical cyclone or storm that affect most Caribbean countries during the Hurricane Season (June to November). These storms are very powerful and their winds rotate in a counter-clockwise direction. They generally become stronger when moving over open warm oceans but may lose force once they hit high mountains on land. Because they bring not only powerful winds but often also flood rains, they may cause unusual storm surges at the coastline or landslides on mountainsides. All these events may damage or destroy the natural environment, the built environment and living things.

Government agencies monitor a hurricane's movements to check if it might hit a country, and issue useful information to guide preparations. The disaster management agency in your country can provide information on hurricane preparations and on the procedures to be followed during and after hurricanes. It usually issues helpful tips before a hurricane and information related to evacuation, curfews and school and business closures. Bulletins are notices about the hurricane which are sent out by media (newspapers, radio, television, computer websites) every few hours when a hurricane is in the area. They are usually created by the government's meteorological service. A Hurricane Watch is a bulletin from a government agency when a hurricane is possible within the next 36 hours. A Hurricane Warning (another kind of bulletin) is issued when a hurricane is expected to hit an area within the next 24 hours.

Protective measures need to be taken when a hurricane is imminent:

- Have a disaster plan.
- Have an evacuation plan.
- Prepare a disaster kit.
- Protect home and belongings

### Earthquakes

Although major earthquakes do not occur frequently, smaller ones happen throughout the Caribbean every year. This is because the Caribbean region sits in an area where two of the Earth's moving tectonic plates meet, causing frequent volcanic activity.

As a preparation for earthquakes, teach students the action to take, and have an 'earthquake drill' in the class so that they can practise what they have learnt. Drop! Cover! Hold! is the accepted way of responding to earthquake vibrations, and all students should learn to do this action. An important aspect of the drill is to ensure that students know where exactly they should meet after the immediate danger has passed. This will allow teachers and parents to discover if anyone is injured or missing.

### Resources

Leptospirosis:

<http://www.cdc.gov/leptospirosis/>

Malaria:

[http://www.againstmalaria.com/faq\\_malaria.aspx](http://www.againstmalaria.com/faq_malaria.aspx)

Dengue fever:

<http://www.cdc.gov/dengue>

Caribbean Public Health Agency website:

<http://www.carpha.org>

'Buy Nothing Day' (last Saturday/last Friday in November):

<http://www.adbusters.org/campaigns/bnd>

Water resources:

<http://www.wateraid.org/uk/audience/schools?gclid=CJKz-YXKiL4CFUoCwwodcCUA4g#/teaching-materials>

The story of stuff – resources, production:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gLBE5QAYXp8&feature=fvst>

How green is my water bottle – compares steel water bottle and plastic ones:

<http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2009/04/19/opinion/20090419bottle.html>

To download 'Our Planet special issue:

Caribbean Environment Programme' UNEP:

[http://www.unep.org/publications/search/pub\\_details\\_s.asp?ID=3895](http://www.unep.org/publications/search/pub_details_s.asp?ID=3895)

Caribbean coral reefs and threats:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2008/jan/24/climatechange>


300 topics about the environment:

<http://www.enviropedia.org.uk/index.php>

Imaginative recycling tips:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2007/mar/12/practicaladvice>



Part 2 Teacher's notes to  
accompany Student's Book 4 and  
Activity Book 4 



# Identifying My Talents

Student's Book pages 4 and 5

Activity Book page 3

## Key Life Skills

- Self-awareness
- Effective communication
- Critical thinking

## CARICOM Core outcomes

- Demonstrate increased awareness of self through types of interaction with family, peers and others (social clubs, Cub Scouts, Brownies and Sunday school).
- Assess their self-concept.
- Recognise how self-concept is fashioned in relationships with family and friends.
- Recognise ways of building a positive self-concept.

## Objectives

At the end of this unit students should be able to:

- recognise personal qualities and talents
- display support for classmates through applause and other encouraging gestures.

## Introduction

In a world where the bold and confident shine, it is sometimes difficult to find our place, as it relates to our talents and abilities. Explain to the students that it can be hard to recognise our own talents and abilities. Often it takes someone else to see what we are good at and help us to shape our talents.

## Activity 1



The scene may be very real for some students in the class. Ask if anyone has ever felt like Abby and Jon. The reasons students give about why Abby and Jon should be having these thoughts could be very instructive. Encourage them to describe Abby's and Jon's feelings using feeling words like 'ashamed' or 'embarrassed'.

## Activity 2



Discussing the role plays about how to help Abby and Jon could assist students who have felt as they did to deal with their feelings.

## Did you know?

Ask the students what they understand about what a talent is, as well as what self-esteem is. Encourage them to explain the thoughts they share. For example, discuss how sharing your talent can help you to become better at that talent, and how using your talents helps to build your self-esteem.

## Activity 3



It is affirming for students to share what they do well. It is important that they do not make fun of what is being shared by their partner.

## Activity 4



As they present each other's talent to the class, they should suggest ways in which their partner can use or share it. Encourage the class to applaud each talent. The dominant life skill in this lesson is self-awareness, and this activity should be used to help the students understand

what it means to be self-aware by identifying their strengths.

### **Additional activity**



Ask the students to write their talents on a sheet of paper. Display all the class's talents on the wall, and ask them to record in their notebooks when and where they use their talents during the year.

### **Activity Book**

Encourage the students to be generous to themselves as they complete the activities, and celebrate their talents.

### **Reflection**

Challenge the students to describe their feelings about their talents and to say how they will use them in practical ways.



# 2

## Setting My Goals

Student's Book pages 6 and 7

Activity Book page 4

### Key Life Skills

- Critical thinking
- Communication
- Self-awareness

### CARICOM Core outcomes

- Demonstrate increased awareness of self through types of interaction with family, peers and others (social clubs, Cub Scouts, Brownies and Sunday school).
- Assess their self-concept.
- Recognise how self-concept is fashioned in relationships with family and friends.
- Recognise ways of building a positive self-concept.

### Objectives

At the end of this unit students should be able to:

- recognise the importance of setting goals
- apply self-evaluation tools to identify their strengths and weaknesses
- demonstrate critical thinking skills.

### Introduction

Setting goals and working towards them can help us to build our concept of self and self-esteem. Some goals will materialise in a week, others in a month or a year; some may take many years, or even a lifetime! These are referred to as short-term, medium-term and long-term goals. This lesson will help the students to understand how important it is to set goals and even more importantly, to work at fulfilling those goals.

### Activity 1



As the groups discuss the scene, their thoughts and ideas will indicate their understanding of planning for the future and setting goals. Their response to what Zac's mother said and what Suzie said will also demonstrate their appreciation of the attention to be given to different activities at different times.

### Did you know?

Invite the students to share their understanding of what a goal is, giving examples. Have them explain the suggestions given here. The most critical point is that it requires more than setting a goal to experience success. Two components crucial to success are **attitude** and **action**, so these must be explained and discussed. The dominant life skill in this lesson is critical thinking and this activity can be used to help the students to understand what it means to think critically. One or two of the steps in critical thinking could be used to explain attitude and action (see page 26).

### Activity 2



This activity will help students to understand the steps to be taken in order to reach a goal. You could also talk about how it might feel not to achieve the goal, as this might help motivate the students to complete the task.

As the reasons why goal setting is important are discussed, invite students to share their own experiences.

### Activity Book

The activities help students to focus on themselves and encourage self-awareness, as well as consolidating the work in the Student's Book.

**Reflections**

This assists students in identifying a specific activity that they would like to accomplish and to focus on that one goal. It also introduces the idea that one may need help to accomplish a goal, and this is acceptable and desirable.



# Friends Are Special

**Student's Book pages 8 and 9**

**Activity Book page 5**

## Key Life Skills

- Communication
- Critical thinking
- Self-awareness

## CARICOM Core outcomes

- Demonstrate increased awareness of self through types of interaction with family, peers and others (social clubs, Cub Scouts, Brownies and Sunday school).
- Recognise how self-concept is fashioned in relationships with family and friends
- Recognise ways of building a positive self-concept.
- Demonstrate skills and behaviours for building harmonious relationships with family and friends.

## Objectives

At the end of this unit students should be able to:

- create a checklist of the characteristics of quality friendship
- create a checklist of at least three things a friend will do
- demonstrate through the making of a friendship tree at least two of the identified behaviours they presently practise
- identify at least one quality they need to work at to become a better friend
- demonstrate effective communication skills in group and class discussions.

## Introduction

Research indicates that meaningful relationships are critical to experiencing an emotionally healthy and fulfilled life. The qualities of friendship will be explored in this unit.

As the students look at the picture of children who are friends, you might ask them to listen to or sing the song 'That's what friends are for' or any other song about friendship they may know.

## Activity 1



Invite the students to share and document their responses to the questions. It may be necessary to keep the groups small, perhaps no more than five, to encourage everyone to participate. As the groups share their thoughts with the class, ask a few students to share instances when they experienced, from a friend, the qualities of friendship being discussed.

The dominant life skill in this lesson is effective communication, and this activity could be used to help the students demonstrate this skill by highlighting the steps in how they are communicating with the class. You may want to revise the steps in listening and speaking skills (pages 21 and 22) before the class sharing takes place.

## Friends box

The characteristics of true friendship discussed in the box may be some of those identified in the groups earlier. Reinforce these and hold a brief discussion on which of these characteristics they find most challenging in their friendships and why.



## Activities 2 and 3



The process of pairing for these activities may be challenging. You could take a vote or views from the students on how they would like to be paired. As they prepare to share, it will be necessary to have a ground rule of confidentiality, as they may refer to fellow students when discussing friends. You might also suggest that names are not used (they could say 'My friend X'). Encourage students to use the characteristics listed in the Friends box to evaluate the quality of their friendship.

### Activity Book

The activities allow students to reflect on their friendships and to celebrate or build one friendship by making a card, bracelet or necktie (using string and knots). Alternatives could be a badge, cartoon or even an e-card.

### Reflection

This reflection invites students to identify and own that one quality in their friendships or their own behaviour that has been missing or that they find difficult. Encourage them to think of ways that they could work on that quality to improve their friendship.



**Student's Book pages 10 and 11**

**Activity Book page 6**

### Key Life Skills

- Creative thinking
- Communication
- Self-awareness

### CARICOM Core outcomes

- Demonstrate increased awareness of self through types of interaction with family, peers and others (social clubs, Cub Scouts, Brownies and Sunday school).
- Recognise how self-concept is fashioned in relationships with family and friends.
- Recognise ways of building a positive self-concept.
- Demonstrate skills and behaviours for building harmonious relationships with family and friends.

### Objectives

At the end of this unit students should be able to:

- practise at least two activities they enjoy with their parents/guardians
- share their feelings about the things they enjoy with their parents/guardians
- appreciate statements made by parents/guardians by applauding
- demonstrate creative thinking skills in the ways they show appreciation to family members.

### Introduction

Families, though so important, continue to represent a challenging experience for many. The increase in broken families through separation and divorce has left many of our

children sad and confused. Creating special experiences by spending quality time together and making memories has the potential to enhance our family relationships. This unit is designed to encourage meaningful family times.

### Activity 1



The process used to place the students in pairs for this activity is important. Having the students choose their own partners could be difficult and embarrassing for some if they are not readily chosen. Teachers need to be sensitive and observe where students seem uncomfortable with their partner.

As the students describe what the families are doing, they are also being invited to describe what they think the family members are feeling. Help them to understand the relationship between what we do and how that can make us feel; this helps us to understand ourselves and others.

As the students talk about their families and the things they do together, be sensitive to those who may feel they do not have anything positive and significant to share. They should be encouraged to look at the simple things such as watching television together, or going to the supermarket or market together.

### Activity 2



This activity should be fun, giving students a time of laughter and enjoyment in the class as they try to mime activities and guess what is happening. Make sure that everyone gets a chance to participate in either the miming or guessing.

It is always important to be sensitive to those students who make no effort to participate or say they have nothing to share. You may need to help them to understand and describe their feelings. At this age and stage the students will very often be doing things with their parent or parent figure. Sharing about activities with family will help you to explore why parents are important.

As the students read the 'Parents are important' box, invite them to share which point on the list is most important to them and why, or which ones their parent does for them. This will help them understand just how important parents really are.

### Activity 3



This pair activity helps students learn to express their appreciation to their parents. This is not done as often as it should be, but it is important as parents often feel taken for granted. Appreciation helps to build relationships. You could use a creative way of having students suggest ways to express appreciation. Give them strips of coloured paper on which to write their way of showing appreciation, and place the strips in a basket with a ribbon, like a gift.

The students could plan to let their parents know how they feel when they spend time together by making a card, taking a flower or a sweet, or offering to do a particular chore. This activity can be used to teach the students what it means to be a creative thinker and the steps involved (see page 26).

Attention needs to be given to any students who have no desire to spend time with or do anything nice for their family members.

### Activity Book

The activities allow for students' personal reflection and expression and may be a useful reminder later, perhaps when they feel less appreciative. The crossword puzzle should be fun, but also a revision of work done. (For the crossword solution, see page 139.)

### Reflection

This reflection is an extension of Activity 3. Encourage the students to put into practice some of the thoughts and ideas discussed earlier. You may need to help some students to put into words how they feel; others may prefer to do a drawing.



# Learning to Say I'm Sorry

**Student's Book pages 12 and 13**

**Activity Book page 7**

## Key Life Skills

- Communication
- Empathy
- Coping with emotions

## CARICOM Core outcomes

- Demonstrate increased awareness of self through types of interaction with family, peers and others (social clubs, Cub Scouts, Brownies and Sunday school).
- Demonstrate skills and behaviours for building harmonious relationships with family and friends.
- Identify ways of coping with feelings and emotions when under pressure in adverse situations.
- Develop refusal and negotiation skills for dealing with risky or adverse situations.

## Objectives

At the end of this unit students should be able to:

- demonstrate an understanding of the terms 'emotions' and 'uncomfortable emotions'
- demonstrate the appropriate use of the phrase 'I'm sorry'
- demonstrate effective communication skills when apologising.

## Introduction

Being willing to ask for forgiveness by saying 'I'm sorry' seems to be one of those difficult things one often needs to do. So often our feelings, like being angry or embarrassed or hurt, prevent us from saying those powerful words. This lesson is intended to assist students

in confronting their feelings and deciding to apologise when necessary.

## Picture activity

This is a very familiar scene in school at lunchtime. Encourage the students to use a range of 'feeling' words to describe the emotions being displayed, and not just 'bad' or 'angry'. Words like 'hurt', 'cross', 'upset', 'abused', 'vexed' could be added. Ask them to describe the words used by Ryan and Kathy as well as their behaviour, and talk about how the words contributed to the behaviour.

## Activity 1



As you guide the class in discussing emotions, you may need to use pictures and/or short scenes or stories to identify the different types of emotions. Exploring with the students why they think an emotion is uncomfortable could be revealing and instructive.

It is important to go through the section at the bottom of the page on emotions so that the students understand clearly what emotions, comfortable feelings and uncomfortable feelings are. You should also share with them the names of new 'feeling' words, giving clear and simple descriptions for each one.

## Activity 2



The pairing for this activity needs to be sensitively done. Teach the students about confidentiality or revise this concept so that they understand why they should not share with others what they hear. As you observe what is being shared in the pairs, you may need to respond if remembering a hurt upsets students. You could also invite students to share an occasion when they hurt someone:

how they behaved, and how they feel about it now.

### **Activity 3**



Discuss what an apology really means and the ways one can say one is sorry. This activity offers an opportunity to teach students how to use effective communication to say sorry to someone they have hurt, focusing on tone of voice, body language, etc. as well as words. The box 'A good apology' should be discussed and students can use these statements to plan an apology.

### **Activity 4**



Encourage the students to take the role play seriously so that they will learn both how to handle situations and how to communicate effectively what they are feeling. Ask them to think about how they feel as the receiver of the apology.

### **Activity Book**

The four activities here consolidate the discussion and role-play work in the Student's Book. If necessary, talk with the students about the kinds of answers that might be suitable before they do the activities, sharing good ideas, so that they all feel able to provide answers. You could pair students for the first three activities.

### **Reflection**

Ask the students to think about the specific ways in which they have learnt to deal with their uncomfortable emotions when they have been hurt or hurt another. Encourage them to plan how they can approach any apology they need to make.



# Making Peace

**Student's Book pages 14 and 15**

**Activity Book page 8**

## Key Life Skills

- Negotiation
- Communication
- Problem-solving

## CARICOM Core outcomes

- Demonstrate increased awareness of self through types of interaction with family, peers and others (social clubs, Cub Scouts, Brownies and Sunday school).
- Demonstrate skills and behaviours for building harmonious relationships with family and friends.
- Identify ways of coping with feelings and emotions when under pressure in adverse situations.
- Develop refusal and negotiation skills for dealing with risky or adverse situations.

## Objectives

At the end of this unit students should be able to:

- explore personal experiences to arrive at a definition for the term 'making peace'
- demonstrate respect for the opinions of other persons
- suggest at least one strategy they can use for handling conflict.

## Introduction

We all need to become peace makers, but even understanding what it means to be a peacemaker requires careful thought. This lesson should assist students in understanding how they can contribute to building a peaceful and harmonious society and make their homes

and school more peaceful places in which to enjoy life.

## Picture activity

As the students discuss the fight shown in the picture, allow them to describe the scene with all the emotion and excitement that would normally be experienced on such an occasion. Encourage the use of as many different words as possible when they talk about the emotions of the students fighting and the onlookers.

## Activity 1



If some students find defining peace difficult, they could draw a picture to show what they are thinking or give an example of a peaceful scene or time they have experienced.

The statements defining conflict and negotiating need to be discussed in simple language with examples from daily life to ensure that students understand them.

## Activity 2



Sharing incidents of conflict could trigger the associated emotions and cause students to relive the experience, so you will need to be sensitive to this as you move around the room to observe the pair discussions. How they handled the situations may have been inappropriate, but they should still be encouraged to be honest and later in the lesson to think about another, better, response to the conflict. All of us make mistakes – what is important is that we learn from them. Encourage an honest, sharing, respectful classroom in which all students can admit mistakes and move forward. Focus on praising students for honesty and courage rather than disapproving of past bad behaviour.

**Activity 3**

This discussion creates an opportunity to guide the students in talking through how they would think and feel if they were involved in a fight, or watching one. As they share their honest perspectives and responses, do not simply correct them, but help them to think of and work through alternative responses that would make for peace. Explain and emphasise the valuable role of the onlooker as a peace maker. Ask students to suggest positive ways in which onlookers can help to create peace without risk to themselves.

**Activity 4**

Ask the students to apply the peace-making strategies to the situations they mentioned earlier in their pairs. Discussing the difficulty in actually taking these steps will help them to see their value and importance, and to want to practise using them.

The dominant life skill in this lesson is negotiation. Deciding to promote peace over conflict requires being willing to listen and come to an agreement, so some aspects of listening skills may also be useful here.

**Activity Book**

The code puzzle (called a cryptogram) is a way of releasing tension about the subject of conflict, and could be done in pairs. (For the solution, see page 139.)

In order to carry out Activities 2 and 3 the students will need to know and understand the conflict resolution steps in the box, so you may need to discuss or revise them, and perhaps devise a role play using them (see page 31). These activities could also be done in pairs.

**Reflections**

It may be useful to ask the students to write down, without giving any names, the nature of the disagreement they have had and how they plan to make peace.





**Student's Book pages 16 and 17**

**Activity Book page 9**

### Key Life Skills

- Interpersonal relations
- Creative thinking
- Healthy self-management

### CARICOM Core outcomes

- Demonstrate increased awareness of self through types of interaction with family, peers and others (social clubs, Cub Scouts, Brownies and Sunday school).
- Affirmation of persons who are different from self (ethnic and cultural).
- Appreciate that resources among diverse people are essential to developing positive relationships.
- Appreciate that ethnic and cultural differences can add variety and richness to relationships and to available resources.

### Objectives:

At the end of this unit students should be able to:

- explain diversity
- discuss why it is important to respect differences in others
- demonstrate a positive attitude towards persons who are different
- accept persons who are different.

### Introduction

As we look around, wherever we live, we observe people who look different from us and each other, and who have different behaviours and practices. Sometimes these differences leave us confused or uncomfortable. This unit is

intended to assist students in having a positive attitude towards the persons around them who are different.

### Activity 1



If possible, take a big dutch or iron pot to the class as an object for the lesson. Invite the students to place a real vegetable or food item in the pot, or a picture of one. As you imaginatively mix up the contents of the pot, the students should get a clearer picture of the concept of a melting pot. Talk about the melting of things as they heat up – when they melt they mix together and cannot then be separated. As the students describe what a melting pot is and how it works, listen for their understanding of how different things come together and affect each other, producing something good or better. The resulting 'stew' is far tastier than the individual items. The students should then be able to say how a country and the Caribbean can be a melting pot.

### Did you know?

Discussing these points will help the students to understand the concept even better. Point out the different types of persons mentioned (gender, ethnicity, age, physical appearance, talents, etc.), so that they understand that everybody is important.

### Activity 2



Make sure that the students understand the questions, and if necessary, explain them further. Then ask them to share their ideas.

Invite the students to explain how each of the attitudes and behaviours in the box will help the class to become a melting pot. Ask them

to talk about which of these they will find the hardest.

The dominant life skill in this lesson is interpersonal relations. The steps in building interpersonal relationships are outlined in the box.

### **Activity 3**



This is a good culminating activity as it will reveal what the students have learnt. As time permits, each role play could be discussed when presented to the class to clarify what is being shared.

### **Activity Book**

The sentence-completion activity allows students to consolidate and put into practice what they have learnt and create a record for themselves. It requires them to identify a practical outcome for each attitude. The word search revises and consolidates the learning. You might want to ask them to share their answers for these two activities as a form of revision and evaluation. (For the solution to the word search, see page 139.)

### **Reflections**

Encourage the students to share with someone what they have learnt.

**Student's Book pages 18 and 19**

**Activity Book page 10**

### Key Life Skills

- Self-awareness
- Communication
- Critical thinking

### CARICOM Core outcomes

- Demonstrate increased awareness of self through types of interaction with family, peers and others (social clubs, Cub Scouts, Brownies and Sunday school).
- Assess their self-concept.
- Recognise how self-concept is fashioned in relationships with family and friends
- Recognise ways of building a positive self-concept
- Demonstrate awareness of the onset of puberty and the physical, emotional and cognitive changes that accompany it.

### Objectives

At the end of this unit students should be able to:

- explain at least three changes taking place in their bodies (physical and emotional)
- discuss at least three ways to cope with physical and emotional changes
- identify at least two persons with whom they can share their concerns
- use self-awareness skills to appreciate their growth and development
- demonstrate critical thinking skills.

### Introduction

Begin by allowing the students to brainstorm the word 'puberty'. Ask them to look at the photographs and artwork on pages 18 and 19

of the Student's Book and share any similarities and differences they face. Examine what may cause these changes (hormones). As they discuss physical changes, ask the students to explore the statement 'Puberty is the time when your body begins to function like an adult's body.' Point out that not all the changes in their bodies are physical; they have mental or psychological changes too. Help them explore this by talking about emotions.

### Activity 1



In their pairs, guide the students through the discussion questions with a focus on number 4, as this will allow them to explore self-awareness.

At this age and stage most students need only to be aware of the developments outlined in the Student's Book. More factual information is available on pages 55–56 of this Teacher's Guide (Background to the four themes). As you prepare to help students explore self-awareness this information may be useful, but you do **not** need to teach all of it to the students.

Communication and critical thinking life skills can be processed through this activity, particularly question 3. Look at the steps in these skills (pages 21 and 26) and help the students brainstorm how the characters in the pictures could use them further in expressing themselves.

### Activity 2



This activity allows students to think critically about the similarities and differences between the changes experienced by boys and girls at puberty and learn to appreciate them. Refer back to the pictures of Tanecia and Javan and their personal stories.

### Activity Book

The students could begin the hanging mobile activity and complete it by the next class. Review the comments for each heading – skin, body shape, etc. Encourage the students to pay attention to their bodies as they grow so they will understand the changes they are going through, especially the emotional ones.

Activity 2 can help in promoting critical thinking as the students try to put together a list of reminders about puberty. You can ask leading questions to help them generate answers based on the content explored in the lesson.

**Use of technology:** There are a number of age- and stage-appropriate presentations and interactive sites on the internet that can be utilised to enhance this lesson visually, provide information and motivate students – see pages 58–59.

### Reflections

Help the students understand that everyone experiences puberty at different ages. If they have not started puberty yet they should not feel inadequate or abnormal. Encourage them to read more about pubertal changes. Ask those who have experienced changes to share what they are comfortable sharing, as part of peer support. As you take them through this, get them to examine the steps to self-awareness (see page 18).



# 2

## Personal Hygiene

Student's Book pages 20 and 21

Activity Book page 11

### Key Life Skills

- Healthy self-management
- Communication
- Critical thinking

### CARICOM Core outcomes

- Demonstrate increased awareness of self through types of interaction with family, peers and others (social clubs, Cub Scouts, Brownies and Sunday school).
- Assess their self-concept.
- Recognise how self-concept is fashioned in relationships with family and friends.
- Recognise ways of building a positive self-concept.
- Apply proper personal care and hygiene practices.
- Maintain appropriate care of genitals.
- Demonstrate awareness of the onset of puberty and the physical, emotional and cognitive changes that accompany it.

### Objectives

At the end of this unit students should be able to:

- explain the term 'good personal hygiene'
- describe what they consider to be good and healthy hygiene practices
- express through action the healthy self-management skill in proper personal hygiene.

### Introduction

Young children often have difficulty transitioning from being taken care of to taking caring of their own bodies. Many adults complain that their children do not take responsibility for simple things like brushing their teeth, even when they are told repeatedly. This lesson will give parents a helping hand as it serves as reinforcement for positive behaviour in keeping clean and healthy. It also emphasises the need for increased personal hygiene in puberty and prepares students for it.

This unit, with others in this theme, needs to be handled sensitively but in a matter-of-fact way, to avoid causing embarrassment to students. There should be zero tolerance of any teasing.

### Activity 1



It is important for students to discuss good and bad personal hygiene practices to encourage the skill of healthy self-management that will lead to good health. You may need to revise the skill's key steps (see page 18).

### Activities 2 and 3



To avoid embarrassment, regroup the students by gender to guide them through the questions and address cleanliness of private parts. You can develop these ideas by discussing issues of yeast infection in girls, and smegma that can affect boys when they do not wash their penis consistently and correctly. In creating a list to showcase best personal hygiene practices, ask the students to use one of the life skills (decision-making or problem-solving perhaps) and its steps to ensure that they translate the information into practice.

**Additional Activity**

An additional activity might be for students to create their own characters like Grace and Trev, with speech bubbles describing personal hygiene issues relating to puberty. Or groups could role-play radio interviews about personal hygiene and even record them on a cell phone or other device.

**Activity Book**

The activities here consolidate work in the Student's Book and encourage reflection about personal hygiene practices. The poem can be quite short and should be a fun activity.

**Reflection**

Use a discussion to get the students thinking about good and bad hygiene practices.



# Body Image

**Student's Book pages 22 and 23**

**Activity Book page 12**

## Key Life Skills

- Critical thinking
- Communication
- Self-awareness

## CARICOM Core outcomes

- Demonstrate increased awareness of self through types of interaction with family, peers and others (social clubs, Cub Scouts, Brownies and Sunday school).
- Recognise ways of building a positive self-concept.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the ways that sexuality is learnt.
- Demonstrate ways to respond to the key factors influencing sexual choices and experiences.
- Explore personal experiences, attitudes and feelings about the roles that boys and girls are expected to play.

## Objectives

At the end of this unit students should be able to:

- demonstrate an understanding of the definition of body image
- express how the media influence their awareness of physical self and body image
- demonstrate an appreciation for their body
- use critical thinking skills when considering the media influence on body image.

## Introduction

Body image becomes a topical issue during puberty as a result of heightened self-consciousness. As students grow physically and

emotionally they become self-conscious which can sometimes cause self-esteem problems, depression, eating disorders and even suicide. As you guide your students through this topic you may want to make use of the following information:

- Students who physically mature early tend to be teased but lack the emotional maturity to handle the teasing.
- People come in many shapes and sizes; different factors such as genes/heredity and environmental factors and behaviour affect this variety.
- A number of factors influence our perception of our bodies. The media affect body image and self-esteem through television, radio, the internet, advertisements, magazines, music videos and beauty contests.
- Family, friends (peers) and community are also powerful influences on how we perceive ourselves.

## Introduction

Select a video, magazine pictures or any other suitable material that will allow students to brainstorm what the media project as 'perfect images' of people and compare this with people they see on a daily basis. Students should recognise that what is projected by the media is often unrealistic.

Exploring definitions of body image can be fruitful for developing this lesson. One definition is that body image involves our perception, imaginations and emotions about our bodies.

Discuss how the media create a false ideal of physical beauty by using models with extreme characteristics or even digitally altering images. If you have access to a computer, you can help the students understand this by allowing them to use any free online programme that is child/user friendly to alter their own pictures.



**Activity 1**

Discuss the pictures and television commercial on page 22 of the Student's Book. Students should be encouraged to share their thoughts openly as you seek to dispel misconceptions and stem possible self-esteem problems. Identify students who may need to be referred to the school counsellor based on what they share, or plan for a follow-up lesson to address concerns. Be careful not to be too quick to refer students to counsellors, as young people can sometimes be imaginative in their thinking.

**Activity 2**

Encourage the students to see themselves as valuable beyond physical beauty by exploring other aspects of themselves such as personality, intelligence and talent. This approach will build self-esteem and especially help those students who see themselves as less attractive. 'Beauty is only skin deep' could be a statement for debate.

**Activity 3**

Depending on how you structure your lesson, Activity 3 can be used to further establish that beauty is more than physical. Have the students complete a 'Who I am' form that allows them to identify their skills (e.g. swimming), intelligence (e.g. problem-solving), personality (e.g. kind) and values (e.g. belief about self, etc.). Then have them examine pictures of celebrities and say what they like about them aside from their physical appearance.

It is also important to help students understand how beauty is seen differently in different places and cultures. The use of a timeline showing then and now (pictorial) can be effective. For example: <http://stylecaster.com/timeline-sexy-defined-through-ages/>, although this is very western-centric; perhaps you and

your students could create a Caribbean timeline including both men and women?

Critical thinking skills can be used to look at magazine and other pictures in order to understand the media influence on body image. You may wish to revise the key steps with the students before they do this (page 26).

**Activity Book**

The activities here consolidate the work in the Student's Book and reinforce ideas about building self-esteem and not paying too much attention to media images. They also encourage students to support each other in this.

**Reflections**

Help the students to answer the reflective questions and to recognise the dangers of the media as a major influence in how they see or define themselves. Media, like friends, can also cause pressure to feel a part of a particular group which may lead to unhealthy practices such as eating disorders. Students can all be encouraged to find something they like about their bodies and to focus on and celebrate that.



# 4

## Setting Limits

Student's Book pages 24 and 25

Activity Book page 13

### Key Life Skills

- Assertiveness
- Critical thinking
- Healthy self-management

### CARICOM Core outcomes

- Demonstrate increased awareness of self through types of interaction with family, peers and others (social clubs, Cub Scouts, Brownies and Sunday school).
- Recognise how self-concept is fashioned in relationships with family and friends.
- Recognise ways of building a positive self-concept.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the various types of sexual abuse and exploitation.
- Demonstrate awareness of behaviours and situations that can place them at risk of injury to themselves and others.
- Develop and display a risk-response strategy to unfavourable or threatening situations.
- Develop refusal and negotiation skills for dealing with risky or adverse situations.

### Objectives

At the end of this unit students should be able to:

- explain the terms wanted and unwanted touches in their own words
- discuss their feelings about the need to respect self and others and setting physical and sexual limits
- explain at least two ways to display assertiveness by body language and oral communication.

### Introduction

As we raise children to become well-adjusted adults we must ensure they understand the importance of interaction with others; they need to know the place of touch in relationships, including its dangers. In talking about good and bad touches, be sensitive to the fact that some students may have experienced bad touches, while others may not. Include in the discussion all kinds of bad touches. These include not only sexual abuse, but also physical abuse, physical punishment of any kind (being hit by a sibling perhaps), and even things which make us feel slightly uncomfortable, such as someone standing very close, or an unwanted hug from an elderly relative. This will enable most students to relate to the material, and normalise the discussion for any student who has experienced abuse.

Stress to the students that they should only share what they feel comfortable sharing. Tell them that you are available if they want to talk to you after the class. Remind them about confidentiality and about the limits of your own confidentiality if a student is in danger of any harm.

### Activities



You could help the students to process the first objective above by using role plays before Activity 1. Make sure they understand they should **not** actually touch each other in the role play. Role plays will help increase their understanding by letting them explain in their own words what constitutes wanted and unwanted physical interaction. They can use assertiveness and critical thinking skills (see pages 23 and 26) in processing the information for use in real life situations.

### Activity 1



Activity 1 is about touching – students can be helped to discuss and reflect what they feel comfortable with. Allow them to feel OK with individual differences – not everyone will feel the same about this and there may be cultural variations. Talk about different areas of the body. The students could even draw an outline of themselves and colour areas: OK to touch (e.g. hands, shoulders); only OK for those who are close to me (e.g. face, feet, legs, head); no one at the moment (e.g. lips, private parts, chest). Talk about different types of touch – handshake, arm around the shoulders, pat on the head, hug, kiss; and the differences between touches from different types of people – parents, siblings, other family members, friends, neighbours, strangers. Emphasise that some kinds of touches are unacceptable to everyone/by anyone.

### Activity 2



Encourage the students to use their own experiences (without mentioning them specifically) along with their empathy skills to talk about feelings and what can be done about unwanted touches.

The students could also discuss whether they think closely fitting, or revealing, clothing is an invitation to unwanted physical interaction. You may like to point out that we should all dress modestly out of respect for others and ourselves. This is an important discussion point as female students need to be aware of predators and misinterpretation of the signals they send (however unintentionally) by how they dress. Boys need to share their viewpoints and suggestions in the discussion. At the same time, we should all respect how others choose to dress and understand that the actions we take (e.g. inappropriate touches) are our own responsibility. Boys cannot be allowed to blame a girl's dress for their own behaviour.

### Activity 3



This is about setting limits to touching and physical limits – at this age we are talking about expression of our feelings for the opposite gender, so talk about holding hands, kissing (on cheek or mouth), hugging, touching other parts. There is no need to talk explicitly about sexual intercourse unless students raise issues or you think it is necessary/useful for them.

### Activity 4



In a whole group discussion students should be guided as to how to set physical limits, depending on what feels comfortable to them. Point out that it is **never** OK to touch someone who does not want to be touched or is not expecting it (e.g. pinching someone's bottom). You should always **ask** and **listen** to the answer before you touch someone in a sexual way. It is **always** OK to say 'No' to touching if you want to. This assertiveness is practised in Activity 4. This discussion point could use the steps to healthy self-management (see page 18).

The students could be guided to produce a list of unacceptable touches or ways of behaving; this might help those who struggle with knowing what is OK or with controlling their behaviour.

### Activity Book

The activities here allow students to practise assertiveness skills in relation to inappropriate touching.

### Reflections

Help the students process the reflections in the Student's Book and the Activity Book.



# Uncomfortable Feelings

Student's Book pages 26 and 27

Activity Book page 14

## Key Life Skills

- Problem-solving
- Communication
- Healthy self-management

## CARICOM Core outcomes

- Demonstrate increased awareness of self through types of interaction with family, peers and others (social clubs, Cub Scouts, Brownies and Sunday school).
- Recognise how self-concept is fashioned in relationships with family and friends.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the various types of sexual abuse and exploitation.
- Demonstrate awareness of behaviours and situations that can place them at risk of injury to themselves and others.
- Develop and display risk-response strategy to unfavourable or threatening situations.
- Develop refusal and negotiation skills for dealing with risky or adverse situations.

## Objectives

At the end of this unit students should be able to:

- identify at least three factors that constitute sexual abuse/exploitation by adults and older children
- devise measures to protect themselves against sexual advances and behaviours, using problem-solving skills
- know who to talk to if they are sexually abused.

## Introduction

Sexual abuse of children is one of the major issues affecting society. Children are exploited daily and need sexual and reproductive health information for their protection. Children need to know that healthy relationships involve respect, kindness and most importantly, trust.

This is a very sensitive and difficult area for teachers to deal with. Stress to the students that they should only share what they feel comfortable sharing. Tell them that you are available if they want to talk to you after the class. Remind them about confidentiality and about the limits of your own confidentiality if a student is in danger of any harm.

In exploring the issue of sexual abuse/exploitation, you could allow the students to look up a definition in a dictionary. You can guide the discussion to include aspects of the following definition if they are not given by the students in the discussion:

Sexual abuse is:

- any sexual act between an adult and a minor, or between two minors when one exerts power over the other
- forcing, coercing or persuading a child to engage in any type of sexual act; this, of course, includes sexual contact; it also includes non-contact acts such as exhibitionism, exposure to pornography, voyeurism and communicating in a sexual manner by phone or internet
- an emotionally painful, uncomfortable and/or traumatic experience for its victims
- a crime punishable by law.

Focus on Carla's situation in the Student's Book to elicit information from the class for the definition, and prevent discussion of students' own personal experiences in a class setting.

**Activity 1**

Encourage brainstorming of solutions to question 3 and share all the answers with the class.

**Activity 2**

Some of Activity 2 will be revision. The students can begin exploring steps to problem-solving by processing the steps for solving Carla's problem: What is the problem? Think about what I know/information; Choose the best solution; Act; Evaluate or review the chosen solution.

As the students discuss question 5, introduce them to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and child care and protection laws in your country. For example, in Jamaica teachers may use the booklet entitled *Act Right Treat Me Right: A guide to the Child Care and Protection Act*, available from the Guidance and Counselling Unit of the Ministry of Education.

**Activity 3**

Help the students to use creative thinking skills in the creation of their posters. The posters will serve as a visual reminder and making them will ensure students retain the information and may be able to transfer it to real life.

**Activity Book**

The activities here allow students to use healthy self-management, problem-solving and empathy skills to imagine what it might be like to be Carla, and try to solve her problem. Afterwards debrief carefully, perhaps focusing on asking the students to think about which skills they think they used and why.

**Reflection**

Allow the students to reflect in order to build their capacity to avoid or deal with any unwelcome touches or advances.



# Managing Feelings

**Student's Book pages 28 and 29**

**Activity Book page 15**

## Key Life Skills

- Decision-making
- Communication
- Self-awareness

## CARICOM Core outcomes

- Recognise how self-concept is fashioned in relationships with family and friends.
- Recognise ways of building a positive self-concept.
- Demonstrate awareness of behaviours and situations that can place them at risk of injury to themselves and others.
- Develop and display risk-response strategy to unfavourable or threatening situations.
- Develop refusal and negotiation skills for dealing with risky or adverse situations.

## Objectives

At the end of this unit students should be able to:

- define the term sexual abstinence
- explain at least two benefits to be derived from delaying sex
- communicate their feelings about delaying sex
- demonstrate decision-making skills.

## Introduction

Sex, sexuality and abstinence are sensitive and controversial issues. This unit aims to help students understand what abstinence is, how it can be achieved and how it can help them. Abstinence can be useful to young people whether they are religious or not. Be sensitive

to the different cultural and religious views represented in the class, regardless of your own views, and encourage the students to discuss and develop their moral and ethical values.

In exploring the meaning of abstinence from an individual and social standpoint, allow the students to discuss statements such as: 'Abstinence means avoiding any type of sexual contact.' This kind of discussion will help students create their own view, develop their values and make their own informed decisions about sexual abstinence and sexual activity.

## Activity 1



As you discuss abstinence with the students, beware of linking it with the consequences of pregnancy and STIs only. The skill of self-awareness becomes critical here, as students seek to understand their personality while choosing to abstain. They will benefit from delaying sex in order to know and focus on their values and gain an understanding of their emotions. They will also benefit in practical ways such as being able to focus on school work, future goals, careers, hobbies and interests; building relationships with family and friends; and developing themselves as people.

When considering the possible effects of not abstaining, include both the long-term ones (e.g. unplanned pregnancy, dropping out of school, cervical cancer) and short-term ones (e.g. loss of self-respect, lack of focus on school work, hurting parents, reputation among peers, etc.). This is also brought out in Activity 3.

## Activities 2 and 3



Help the students to identify safe and healthy ways of expressing their feelings. Practising the steps in self-awareness (page 18) will

help them to have greater control over their behaviour. Remind them that communication is also important. The reason many persons get involved in sexual activities is that they do not know how to communicate what they are feeling, based on their values. Understanding what they want or need and then communicating their values and feelings to others will help them to protect themselves and fulfil their goals.

### **Activity Book**

It is a good idea to discuss the activity scenarios in groups or as a class before the students write their answers. Draw their attention to the very real dangers presented. Revise and rehearse the decision-making key steps (page 27) and help the students apply them to each scenario, perhaps using role play.

### **Reflections**

Have the students discuss the reflections in the Student's and Activity Books as a whole group first to help them think through the issues. When thinking how sexual choices might affect their own goals, they could consider whether they know anyone who had early sexual activity, and what it meant for that person.





Student's Book pages 30 and 31

Activity Book page 16

### Key Life Skills

- Refusal
- Decision-making
- Self-awareness

### CARICOM Core outcomes

- Demonstrate increased awareness of self through types of interaction with family, peers and others (social clubs, Cub Scouts, Brownies and Sunday school).
- Recognise how self-concept is fashioned in relationships with family and friends
- Demonstrate awareness of behaviours and situations that can place them at risk of injury to themselves and others.
- Develop refusal and negotiation skills for dealing with risky or adverse situations.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the ways in which sexuality is learnt.
- Demonstrate ways to respond appropriately to the key factors influencing sexual choices and experiences.
- Explore personal experiences, attitudes and feelings about the roles that boys and girls are expected to play.

### Objectives

At the end of this unit students should be able to:

- define sexuality
- identify ways in which we express sexuality
- explore factors that contribute to our sexuality and the choices we make
- role-play refusal skills.

### Introduction

This unit focuses on understanding some of the factors that affect the choices people make, and on deciding which of the 'voices' we hear should be listened to, such as our values, and which should be ignored, such as negative peer pressure.

### Activity 1



What affects the choices we make about abstaining from sexual activity, delaying sexual activity, or setting sexual limits? Using this question from the Student's Book as a springboard for discussion will help students gain understanding of what sexuality is. Generate a class discussion by allowing the students to share their responses to the group questions with the whole class.

Role play could be used to guide the students in decision-making when they get into the character of the students in the pictures. Alicia's statement should provoke some discussion about what people might mean when they say 'I love you.'

Make sure students understand what is meant by peer pressure – ask for examples they have experienced, know about or can imagine.

### Activity 2



Here the students can be asked to provide examples. In Unit 3 they looked at how the media influences our behaviour and choices. Here they might want to discuss the availability of pornography or the impression given by some magazines and television programmes that 'everyone is doing it'; these can give young people erroneous ideas about what is 'normal'.

### Activity 3



Emphasise the importance of listening to your own inner voice or values, and to people who care about you, such as your parents.

### Activity 4



To practise refusal skills, the students could be given prompts from a pre-written script (created by you) to engage them in the activity of choosing one of the influences on sexual choices.

### Activity Book

This is intended to summarise and consolidate the work in the Student's Book, as well as revise the application of decision-making skills in this context.

### Reflection

This could be presented in the form of a comic strip as students build their knowledge and explore their values, attitudes and behaviours.



# HIV and other STIs

**Student's Book pages 32 and 33**

**Activity Book page 17**

## Key Life Skills

- Critical thinking
- Interpersonal relations
- Healthy self-management

## CARICOM Core outcomes

- Display knowledge of transmission of diseases, especially HIV and AIDS.
- Demonstrate skills to interact appropriately and respond compassionately to persons affected by HIV.

## Objectives

At the end of this unit students should be able to:

- identify at least three ways in which STIs and HIV can and cannot be transmitted
- identify at least three ways in which STIs and HIV can be prevented or treated.

## Introduction

Engage the students in a step by step process of exploring the nature of HIV and AIDS from its transmission to treatment and prevention. It is important for students of this age group to understand what STIs including HIV and AIDS are, so that they can understand why and how to try to protect themselves from sexual activities, forced or otherwise.

When talking about HIV and AIDS, and other STIs, do not use scare tactics. Instead give students the opportunity to share and listen so they can be adequately informed. Remember, the reality of HIV and AIDS can be daunting, so it is important to have children feel safe and secure emotionally as they explore the

topic. Note that there may be students in the class who are HIV positive or who have family members who are, and so empathy and care should be taken when teaching the lesson. Make sure you avoid blaming those who have or transmit HIV.

For more information about STIs and HIV and AIDS see pages 53–55 of this Teacher's Guide. To further aid you in teaching the unit you can use as reference Macmillan's *Teaching about HIV and AIDS in the Caribbean*, *HIV and AIDS Handbook* and *Caribbean HIV Readers* ([www.macmillan-caribbean.com](http://www.macmillan-caribbean.com)) and UNICEF's global information at <http://www.unicef.org/aids>

## Activity 1



Use the pictures in the Student's Book to address misinformation the students may have. Guide them using the following points:

1. It is important to know about STIs and HIV and AIDS.
2. What are germs and viruses?
3. STIs including HIV and AIDS are sexually transmitted infections.
4. Transmission of STIs and HIV is not as easy as getting colds and 'flu.
5. Nowadays HIV can be treated and many people with the disease live long and healthy lives, but they usually have to take medicines every day and may experience side effects.

## Activity 2



The only 100 per cent effective way of protecting against STIs and the sexual transmission of HIV is sexual abstinence. Explore with the students what they remember

about sexual abstinence from previous lessons and probe for information they may have already learnt about HIV and STIs.

This is a largely knowledge-based unit, so consider doing a class quiz in two teams where students create questions to which they know the answers and ask the other team. The topic is also a good opportunity to make use of an anonymous question box on your desk to answer other questions students may have. Take the box of questions away and answer them at the beginning of the next lesson.

### **Activity Book**

The activities revise and consolidate what the students have learnt in the Student's Book and discussions. They also ask students to apply this knowledge to a specific situation.

### **Reflections**

Have the students share their thoughts on the reflection points in both books. Help them to be very specific about the places they can go to for information in your country. You could create a pocket reference booklet of HIV, AIDS and STIs information.

**Student's Book pages 34 and 36**

**Activity Book page 18**

### Key Life Skills

- Empathy
- Critical thinking
- Self-awareness

### CARICOM Core outcomes

- Display knowledge of transmission of diseases, especially HIV and AIDS.
- Demonstrate skills to interact appropriately and respond compassionately to persons affected by HIV.
- Demonstrate skills to assist and respond compassionately to peers and siblings requiring health care.

### Objectives

At the end of this unit students should be able to:

- discuss four myths about persons living with HIV or AIDS (PLWHA)
- discuss the importance of providing PLWHA with care and support
- demonstrate empathy for PLWHA.

### Introduction

This lesson discusses myths about PLWHA and allows you to help students foster empathy by encouraging them to become aware of the feelings of others. This can be done by engaging them through situations from different perspectives. You can focus on Rita's situation, or on other imagined situations. They can practise empathy through imagination and role plays that show, for example: a) how it might feel emotionally to

discover you have HIV and b) how it might feel to experience people's reactions. Take care to debrief after role plays.

The activities encourage students to think creatively and critically about how to use positive words and actions in relating to others. Here are some simple definitions of words used in the unit:

- Empathy – the ability to picture yourself in another person's situation and understand their feelings, behaviours and needs.
- Care – showing love, concern and affection for someone.
- Support – helping someone and being kind to them when they are having a difficult time.
- Pity – a strong feeling of sympathy that you have for someone because they are very unhappy or in a bad situation; feeling sorry for someone.

### Activity 1



Have the students discuss what the children are saying in each picture and ensure everyone knows which statements are myths and which not. Emphasise that the children cannot possibly know that Rita has AIDS or HIV, as the only way to know is from test results, not from how someone looks or how they behave. Make the important point about most people with HIV not knowing they have it, especially as it can live in the body for a long time before it affects a person.

To encourage empathy, discuss questions like: Can you remember a time you hurt a family member or a friend's feelings? What happened? What makes you think that you hurt the person's feelings? When you found out you hurt their feelings how did you feel about the situation? Did anyone help you feel

better about the situation? What did you do about the situation?

To enhance this lesson you may use HIV Readers such as those from Macmillan Caribbean; see <http://www.macmillan-caribbean.com>.

## Activity 2



Look at the 'Myths about HIV and AIDS' table in a whole class discussion. Inform students that one cannot tell by looking; this, and the fact that most people who are HIV positive don't know they are, are very important for children to learn. When addressing HIV and homosexuality in the Caribbean tell students (if asked) that HIV is mainly transmitted by heterosexual sex, although it can be transmitted by either heterosexual or homosexual activity. You may want to refer to an HIV fact sheet such as: <http://tinyurl.com/kx8l55b>

## Activity 3



This activity gives students the opportunity to empathise with a child living with an illness and think how they would like to be treated. In a second role play they could try to talk in a kinder or different way; or show their own feelings if they had HIV, were getting treatment, felt quite well and just wanted to be allowed to get on with their lives. Stigma and discrimination can be discussed as these are often far worse than the disease.

Remind the students through discussion that it is safe to play with, hug and eat with someone who has HIV. Some students may ask if HIV can be contracted by kissing; the answer is that it is very rare, occurring perhaps if both persons have mouth sores, but it is best to kiss on the cheek.

Note: people with HIV do not want to be pitied; empathy is a rather different thing.

## Reflection

Have the students share openly about ways to show empathy to PLWHAs and how to treat people appropriately. Let them explore and imagine possible outcomes of showing empathy.

## Activity Book

The activities use creative thinking and imagination to help students reflect on what they have learnt about HIV myths and empathy.



**Student's Book pages 36 and 37**

**Activity Book page 19**

### Key Life Skills

- Critical thinking
- Empathy
- Self-awareness

### CARICOM Core outcomes

- Identify family, school and community services as sources of information on health.
- Assess family, school and community resources as sources of accurate information that deal with health, social and emotional issues.
- Demonstrate skills to assist and respond compassionately to peers and siblings requiring health care.

### Objectives

At the end of this unit students should be able to:

- understand that health is more than the absence of disease
- identify at least three sources of health information and social services in their community
- demonstrate critical thinking in relation to health issues
- advocate for the use of youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services in their communities.

### Introduction

The school has a responsibility to ensure the health of all students irrespective of age, stage and circumstance. Giving students health information, discussing the issues, helping them to develop their values and teaching life skills will help to develop the knowledge, attitudes and skills

needed to make informed decisions for a healthy lifestyle. Being healthy includes mental, emotional and social health as well as physical health.

Access to health information is important for well-being. Research has shown that giving young people advice on sexual health does not lead to promiscuity but encourages them to delay sexual activity. Issues of teenage pregnancy, emotional problems and STIs are realities faced by young people daily, so it is prudent to equip them with the information they need to make healthy choices. As a practitioner with this information you will be better able to communicate with parents about these issues, especially in situations where you would normally be unsure about what to say or how much information to give. If you are in doubt about what to teach or the age-appropriateness of any material, discuss this with your principal, HFLE co-ordinator or colleagues.

### Activities 1 and 2



Engage the students in discussions about general health before examining mental, physical and emotional well-being. Be guided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that all of humanity has a right to 'a standard of living adequate for health and well-being' and The World Health Organisation (WHO), which states that 'health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity'.

The students should explore that health is more than health care as they also need clean water, food (sufficient, safe and healthy), shelter and proper sanitation, as well as other people and activities for emotional and social health. Help them think critically about how someone can be free of disease but be unhealthy because of the environment in which they live.



The skills of empathy, critical thinking and self-awareness can be reinforced as the students look at Robert and Neita's story and consider how they would feel in that situation.

Help the students understand that health resources need to be of good quality, and information should be accurate and up to date. Advice about health is always changing because of new scientific research and treatments. Examine the quality of resources by looking at: friendly or unfriendly, accurate or inaccurate, reliable or not. Allow the students to brainstorm what these things (friendly and unfriendly, accurate and inaccurate) look like by using questions such as: is it True, is it Useful, is it Good (TUG) and let them talk on each. For friendly vs. unfriendly, you could engage the students in a brainstorming session about how they are treated when they visit local clinics, or a private doctor or hospital. As for reliability, help them examine the dependability of local clinics, doctors or hospitals.

### Activities 4 and 5



Activity 4 provides an opportunity for advocacy skills, so you may wish to teach or revise the key steps (page 25).

The following are sources of quality health information in the Caribbean, especially on sexual and reproductive health:

Ministries of Health/Regional Health Authorities; local clinics, executive agencies of the Ministries of Health, e.g. National Family Planning Board;  
<http://www.unicef.org/jamaica/partners.html> (Jamaica);  
<http://www.fdcchildren.org>.

Ask the students to research health resources in their local community, city and town and note down their addresses and telephone numbers.

### Activity Book

This focuses on resources for sexual and reproductive health and for children's health.

### Reflections

Allow the students to share thoughts on the reflections.



# You Are What You Eat!

**Student's Book pages 38 and 39**

**Activity Book page 20**

## Key Life Skills

- **Healthy self-management**
- Creative thinking
- Self-awareness

## CARICOM Core outcomes

- Recognise healthy eating as a critical component of healthy living throughout the life cycle.
- Demonstrate ways to select a balanced meal, using a variety of foods.

## Objectives

At the end of this unit students should be able to:

- identify food groups that support healthy skin, hair, teeth and eyes
- design a personal food chart of the foods eaten for one day
- demonstrate healthy self-management in menu planning
- communicate with school, parents and friends the importance of eating healthily.

## Introduction

Begin by asking: What is healthy eating? Get students' views on what a healthy and an unhealthy meal consists of. Explain that eating healthily means eating a balanced meal which contains foods from all six food groups. Ask them to identify the six food groups: staples (carbohydrates); food from animals (meat, fish and dairy); fats and oils; fruits; vegetables; legumes (and nuts). Have the students give reasons why they should eat healthy foods, and fill in areas that they may have missed. Highlight the fact that unhealthy

eating can lead to diabetes, heart disease and hypertension (high blood pressure), among other diseases. Be sensitive and observant, as there may be students in the classroom who are obese or uncomfortable with this topic. Do not single them out and put a stop to any teasing or comments from other students.

## Activity 1



This activity seeks to build healthy self-management and self-awareness skills. Encourage the students to examine carefully the pictures of Joan and Molly on page 38 of the Student's Book. The goal is to identify which girl is eating a healthy meal and link healthy eating with the condition of hair, teeth, skin, etc. (Note: you will need to point out that Joan's and Molly's words have been inadvertently swapped over in the Students' Book.) Let each group prepare answers to the questions and present to the class. Monitor the presentations to avoid stereotyping and incorrect statements. Explain to the students that some people may eat unhealthily and still appear healthy on the outside, but this does not mean that they are physically healthy on the inside.

## Activity 2



This encourages students to be creative in planning a healthy, balanced meal. If possible, as practice, have students write on the chalkboard, under breakfast, lunch and snack headings, menus for each meal. Post pictures of food groups and balanced meals on classroom walls or use the pictures in the Student's Book as a guide. Encourage the students to use creative ways to present their menus, such as cutting and pasting pictures of foods, drawing their own pictures, or preparing menu cards to distribute to classmates.

Review the Did you know? information with the students at the end of the activities to reinforce what they have learnt.

### **Activity Book**

Ask the students to complete the one-day food tracker. Review their entries with them to ensure that they are doing it correctly. Encourage them to do the one-week food tracker at home and review their work with them in another class period. This activity will help with building their decision-making, creative thinking, self-awareness and healthy self-management skills.

### **Reflections**

Allow the students to reflect on their personal eating habits using the reflections in both books. Encourage them to develop realistic goals that will help them replace unhealthy foods and poor eating habits with healthier options.



# 2

## Water is Good for Health

Student's Book pages 39 and 40

Activity Book page 21

### Key Life Skills

- Communication
- Self-awareness
- Healthy self-management

### CARICOM Core outcomes

- Recognise healthy eating as a critical component of healthy living throughout the life cycle.
- Demonstrate ways to select a balanced meal, using a variety of foods.
- Apply safe food-handling principles (safe water).

### Objectives

At the end of this unit students should be able to:

- describe at least three functions of drinking water
- use communication skills to justify the importance of drinking clean water
- demonstrate plans to include water in their daily meals.

### Introduction

Introduce this unit by asking the students how much water they drank this morning/break/lunchtime and during the whole day. Ask them why they think drinking water is important. Explain that it is essential to their health and well-being and is necessary for healthy eating. Encourage the students to identify some benefits of drinking clean water and review the Did you know? with them so that they understand the true importance of water.

### Activity 1



Allow the students to work in pairs to examine the poem carefully. Ask them to identify all the benefits of clean drinking water mentioned in the poem and to write the final verse using words from the list given or any others that are appropriate. They can choose to present their poems individually, in groups or in any other creative way they choose. This will help to develop their communication and critical thinking skills.

### Activity 2



This is designed to help develop students' healthy self-management and self-awareness skills. Have them carefully read the story in their small groups and answer the questions. Encourage them to think about their own water-drinking habits when answering questions. To save time, you could ask each group to give their answer for one question only; other groups could say what their answer was if different from the one given.

Students can remain in their groups to prepare posters highlighting the importance of drinking clean water.

### Activity Book

These activities are designed to help students build their self-awareness, critical thinking and healthy self-management skills. Go over the water chart with the students and review their entries to ensure they are correct. They can then copy the chart into their notebooks four times and complete it at home for the rest of the week. Review the charts in next week's class.

### Reflection

At the end of the lesson, ask the students to reflect on their own water-drinking habits and think of ways in which they could increase their daily water intake.



# Let's Get Physically Fit

**Student's Book pages 42 and 43**

**Activity Book page 22**

## Key Life Skills

- Creative thinking
- Self-awareness
- Communication

## CARICOM Core outcomes

- Perform gross locomotor and fine locomotor movements to improve fitness and health.
- Recognise and value fitness as another critical component of healthy lifestyle.
- Design and implement an age-appropriate fitness plan.
- Appreciate the role of fitness in achieving good health.

## Objectives

At the end of this unit students should be able to:

- discuss the benefits of physical activities
- explore simple locomotor movements to selected rhythms
- identify locomotor activities they can do to keep physically fit
- demonstrate creative thinking and self-awareness skills
- design and implement an age-appropriate fitness plan.

## Introduction

Introduce this topic by asking the students about their daily activities and whether or not they feel this is enough to keep them physically fit. Explain that physical activity should be a part of their daily lives and that this helps to keep their bodies physically fit. Be very sensitive

when teaching this lesson, as there may be students in the class who are not physically fit or are disabled. Focus on the improvement of personal activity and performance. Let students know that everyone can improve their physical activity for health but that we can't all be great sportsmen and women.

## Activity 1



The aim is to get students to think critically and to talk about daily physical activities they engage in and the benefits they achieve from doing these activities. The dialogue between Coach and Bobby highlights a number of benefits that people enjoy from being physically active and being part of a team, for example awareness, alertness, improved grades, togetherness, reduced stress, tolerance, improved skills, physical fitness, etc. The dialogue should be used as a means of reinforcing answers already given by students and providing them with additional benefits they may not have identified.

Have the students read out the Did you know? as a class before beginning the next activity.

## Activity 2



The students will use their communication and creative thinking skills to create and perform simple dance moves using four locomotor movements from the list (walking, running, jumping, leaping, sliding, hopping, crawling). You can provide the music yourself, ask the students to bring their own, have them sing a song they know, or let them make up their own song.

After the activity, the students can talk about the various locomotor movements and ways in which they were able to use them to create

## EATING AND FITNESS

physical fitness activities. Encourage them to express how they felt during and after the activity to develop self-awareness.

### Activity Book

Discuss as a class activities that the students enjoy. To encourage self-awareness, ask them to express how they feel when they do these activities and also how they feel when they do not do these activities for a day or two. Discuss ways to make physical activity more fun such as playing with friends or family, playing music you enjoy, being out in the fresh air, improving your performance, etc. Encourage them to think about what famous athletes and others do to stay motivated, for example personal records, rewards, exercise buddies, team playing, visualising success, etc.

The activity helps students to prepare their own fitness plans and practise their decision-making and self-management skills. Review the decision-making steps (page 27) and get the students to complete and carry out their plans at home.

### Reflections

The reflection in the Student's Book allows time for personal thought following the class discussions.

Often people make plans to exercise but never keep up with them. The Activity Book reflection encourages students to plan realistic goals and to think about different things they can do to remain motivated.



# 4

## Exercising Safely

Student's Book pages 44 and 45

Activity Book page 23

### Key Life Skills

- Decision-making
- Self-monitoring
- Interpersonal relations

### CARICOM Core outcomes

- Display safe behaviours during physical activity.
- Incorporate safety principles when engaged in fitness activities.
- Appreciate the role of fitness in achieving good health.
- Display safe behaviours during physical activity.

### Objectives

At the end of this unit students should be able to:

- give examples of accidents and safety problems
- state some reasons why accidents or problems occur
- suggest rules for safety
- use decision-making skills to apply safety principles when exercising.

### Introduction

You may find it useful to remind students of any recent accidents in the playground or ask them for examples. Be careful not to blame the individuals concerned – emphasise that we are all capable of making mistakes, and we can learn from our own and others' mistakes. Allow any students involved to say what could have been done to prevent or avoid the accident.

You could also do a short exercise warm-up in the classroom.

### Picture activity

Let the students study the pictures and say what is happening or could happen in each. What are the dangers? Then read the safety principles in the Did you know? box together and relate each picture to one or more principle.

#### Activity 1



Try to elicit different types of accidents with different causes and help the students analyse them. This is a good opportunity to talk about causes and consequences: If I do X, then Y will may happen.

#### Activity 2



This develops the idea of people being hurt by accidents and therefore the need for rules to be put in place. Discuss any school rules which apply, and rules belonging to specific games.

#### Activity 3



This class discussion will help students to generalise about common reasons for sports and playground accidents so that they can develop their own guidelines.

### Activity Book

The activities use creative thinking and decision-making skills to help students consolidate their ideas about exercising safely and safety principles and guidelines.

### Reflection

You can use the reflection in the Student's Book to revise ideas about conflict resolution and apologising.





Student's Book pages 46 and 47

Activity Book page 24

### Key Life Skills

- Critical thinking
- Decision-making
- Self-awareness

### CARICOM Core outcomes

- Demonstrate an understanding of the factors that influence eating and fitness behaviours.
- Make varied choices to broaden experiences related to eating and fitness.

### Objectives

At the end of this unit students should be able to:

- identify some factors which influence our choices about physical activities
- state some physical fitness activities which are available in the school or community
- use critical thinking skills to consider fitness and eating choices.

### Introduction

This unit is intended to help students understand the reasons why they and others choose particular kinds of exercise, the benefits they get from them, and what is available. It also encourages students to think about trying something new.

Begin by discussing the pictures as a class, reading the speech bubbles and the box below, and relating the pictures to the factors which affect the choices we make.

### Activity 1



Ask the students to discuss the pictures in groups, and then talk about the activities they do themselves and reasons for their choices. Encourage them to use critical thinking skills. Let groups share their ideas with the class.

### Activity 2



To carry out the class survey, the students will need to apply math and social studies skills to HFLE. Help them to work out how to devise questions to generate evidence and evaluate the information using charts and graphs.

### Activity Book

The first activity consolidates the group discussions by asking the students to complete a table giving their reasons for choosing types of exercise, and identifying the factors which influence them. In the fourth activity, they are encouraged to use critical thinking to consider their food choices in a similar way, identifying the reasons why they don't eat certain foods.

### Reflection

Encourage the students to try a new activity and then report back on how they got on.



# 1

# We Are Part of Our Environment

Student's Book pages 48 and 49

Activity Book page 25

## Key Life Skills

- Self-awareness
- Critical thinking
- Communication

## CARICOM Core outcomes

- Recognise the interdependence of the various elements in the environment.
- Identify elements of a sustainable environment.
- Recognise the effect/impact of individual actions on the environment.
- Appreciate the need for a sustainable environment.

## Objectives

At the end of this unit students should be able to:

- explain what is meant by the physical environment
- explain how people affect the physical environment
- suggest ways of reducing the stress on the environment by changing how we behave
- use self-awareness skills to evaluate how their actions affect/impact the environment.

## Introduction

This unit focuses on encouraging students to see themselves as part of their environment and to consider how they relate to it.

To practise the main life skill, self-awareness, you could ask the students to use the following points or see the key steps on page 18.

- Identify what feelings you have.

- What makes you happy and satisfied?
- What makes you sad and nervous?
- How do these feelings affect what you do?
- Think before you act.
- Try not to let feelings affect your behaviour adversely.

For important background information for this unit, see pages 69–80.

## Activities

The activities are intended to help students practise skills to which they have already been introduced; you may need to revise key steps, develop them as appropriate for their age, or focus on particular steps which need attention.

Some activities suggest working with a partner or in small groups to develop communication skills (see page 21). Encourage students to develop both listening skills and talking skills within a classroom setting; everyone should not speak at once! Remember that **listening** is an active skill, while **hearing** is passive. If you hear a sound outside, it may mean nothing to you; if you actively listen to the news, your brain is engaged.

If your students have difficulty listening, try playing listening games. Here are two examples.

### 'Then'

In pairs, one student starts to say a sentence, ending in 'then'. The other student makes a statement that completes the sentence. For example:

A: 'I threw the chicken bones out of the window, then ...'

B: '... the dogs came and ate them up.'

### Words you cannot say

One student says, for example: 'How old are you? You can't say ten.' The second says: 'I'll be eleven next month.'

Other activities aim to develop self-awareness skills and awareness of their surroundings. It might energise and motivate your students if you took them outside the classroom into the school yard. Ask what they can see around them. Direct them to use their other senses to find out about their environment: smell things, feel things, listen to the sounds. The class can select a 'scribe' who will write down all the things in the environment that the students note.

### Activity 1



This encourages students to examine the actions that they perform every day and to think critically about how these relate to the environment. Encourage the students to give more than 'yes' or 'no' answers and to explain where in the environment the items came from.

### Activity 2



This provides an opportunity for students to envisage a healthy school environment. They can add any improvements they would like to see. If there are some good ideas, find out if any might be implemented so that the students see that their ideas have value and they can make a difference.

### Activity Book

The activities examine the environment in more detail, asking students to identify which parts of the physical environment are affected by their actions.

You could use this as an opportunity to explain the 3Rs: Reduce, Re-use, Recycle

**Reducing** might entail not using a disposable bottle then throwing it away, but a proper drinking bottle filled with water from home.

**Re-using** would mean using the disposable bottle for another purpose instead of throwing it away. Ask for suggestions on how we could use the bottle for something else. It could be

decorated and made into a flower vase or (with the top cut off) a pencil holder.

When a plastic bottle is **recycled**, it goes through a process to change the plastic so that it can be used to make something else, for example carpets or car seat covers.

### Reflection

The reflection in the Student's Book solicits suggestions for how students can improve their school environment, providing an opportunity to arrange a clean-up day for the school/classroom/playfield and to discuss the 3Rs of waste management – Reduce, Re-use, Recycle (see above).



# Special Plants and Animals

Student's Book pages 50 and 51

Activity Book page 26

## Key Life Skills

- Communication
- Critical thinking
- Creative thinking

## CARICOM Core outcomes

- Recognise the interdependence of the various elements in the environment.
- Identify elements of a sustainable environment.
- Recognise the effect/impact of individual actions on the environment.
- Appreciate the need for a sustainable environment.
- Appreciate the beauty of the natural environment.
- Identify sources of accurate, age-appropriate information relating to managing the environment.

## Objectives

At the end of this unit students should be able to:

- understand what endemic species are
- identify species endemic to their country
- use their creativity skills to show an appreciation for preserving the country's endemic species.

## Introduction

The lesson aims to explain what **endemic**, **endangered** and **extinct** mean and to try to engender an appreciation for our countries' particular species. It introduces the new words **flora** and **fauna** which scientists use to describe animals and plants. See pages 71–73

for background information on this unit.

The pictures in the Student's Book show some species endemic to selected Caribbean countries. It would be a good idea to obtain additional pictures and information or have the students collect information about the country's endemic species before conducting the activities in this unit.

## Activity 1



To see complete lists of endemic species in any country, go to the Living Treasures website at <http://lntreasures.com> and select the country of interest. You will be directed to other sites which provide photos of these endemic species. It is also recommended that you contact your national environmental agency for local information about the major endemic and endangered plants and animals. These agencies often have posters, flyers, booklets or videos about endemic and endangered species. A resource person from the agency could be invited to make a presentation to the class.

It is a good idea to visit an animal or plant reserve to learn more about the endemic species in your country and what can be done to preserve them for future generations. Nearly all Caribbean countries have either a nature reserve or a national park. You can find out about it by contacting your national environmental agency, which can also provide information on laws that protect the endemic species.

## Activities 2 and 3



Often, people think that killing animals or removing plants (like orchids) is what makes them endangered. While this is true, students need to understand that destroying plants'

and animals' habitats is the usual and more important way in which they are threatened with extinction.

Encourage the students to find out interesting and amazing facts about plants and animals so that you can mount a classroom display. There are also many short films available on the internet and elsewhere which can inspire students.

When discussing whether animals are 'useful' (Activity 2, question 4), you might want to ask whether beautiful things need to be useful too. Talk about the fact that often we do not know how useful something may be in the future – many medicines and other chemicals are only now being discovered in plants. The greater the diversity of plants and animals we have for the future, the better.

### Activity Book

You could use an interesting Japanese poetic form – the haiku poem – to help children to communicate their appreciation and any messages of caring for living things. A haiku poem has the following formula:

- first line has 5 syllables
- second line has 7 syllables
- third line has 5 syllables.

Traditionally, this kind of Japanese poem is about nature, so it is particularly appropriate here. If you think the haiku format is too complex for your students, ask them to compose and record a radio jingle on the same theme.

Making up a good slogan and an effective message would also be a useful form of advocacy. You could have a competition or you could set up a temporary exhibition in the hallway. Put up the students' poems and posters too and invite other classes to look at them.

Another way of practising advocacy would be for the class to write a letter to the Minister of the Environment or to a newspaper pointing out their observations and their suggestions.

### Reflection

Encourage students to see they have some personal responsibility for the future of the animals and plants in our environment.



Student's Book pages 52 and 53

Activity Book page 27

### Key Life Skills

- Critical thinking
- Empathy
- Communication

### CARICOM Core outcomes

- Recognise the interdependence of the various elements in the environment.
- Identify elements of a sustainable environment.
- Recognise the effect/impact of individual actions on the environment.
- Appreciate the need for a sustainable environment.
- Identify threats to a sustainable environment.
- Appreciate the beauty of the natural environment.

### Objectives

At the end of this unit students should be able to:

- identify different components of the environment (habitat, ecosystem)
- state the impact of people on different habitats
- evaluate how their actions affect/impact the environment, i.e. flora and fauna and their habitats
- use empathy and communication skills to show an appreciation for the preservation of the country's flora and fauna.

### Introduction

This unit gives students information about

three concepts: environment, ecosystems and habitats. Students' awareness is raised about their own impacts on flora and fauna and on habitats. They are encouraged to stop disturbing these living things.

Useful videos on topics related to ecosystems and habitats are available online at <http://www.neok12.com/Ecosystems.htm>

### Activity 1



Note that different habitats are suited to different animals. Make sure that you check the students' responses to the picture. They should be able to identify the habitats for five animals – monkeys, parrots, snails, grasshoppers and worms:

1. Spider monkeys: the second layer of tree tops and tree branches. There is abundant sunlight there, and plenty of nuts, fruits, leaves, bird eggs and spiders for the monkeys to eat. They are adapted to moving around in this habitat and almost never come down to ground level.
2. Parrots: the second layer of tree tops and tree branches. There is abundant sunlight, and many fruits, flowers, buds, nuts, seeds and small creatures such as insects for the birds to eat. Parrots are adapted to moving around in this habitat.
3. Grasshoppers: the bushes and grasses. There is not much sunshine, but there is cool shade. These insects eat the grasses and leaves and can move around easily when they need more food.
4. Snails: in the bushes and grasses. There is little sunlight, and shade. The snails eat the soft leaves and are able to move slowly from one plant to another.
5. Worms: the ground area. This is cool, shady and moist. There may be many dead leaves

which will provide food and protection for the worms.

### Activity 2



This encourages students to think about the impacts humans have on animal habitats and what we can lose by destroying them.

### Activity Book

Take your students on a field trip around the school yard to observe plants and animals as well as the general characteristics of the area. They should also note the impact of actions by students, teachers and other workers (e.g. groundsmen) on the areas they see. For example, in September the grass near the football goals is lush and green, but after a month of practice on the field, there is little grass in this area. The boys and girls have pounded the grass and killed it. Perhaps they might notice a tall tree that has been trimmed, with consequent loss of the birds that used to sing in it.

You could also arrange a visit to a nature preserve, national park or zoo, so that students can think about the animals and plants in their countries, and how they are being protected. On this trip they should repeat their observations and think about the differences from their school yard. Different habitats support different plants and animals and tend to encourage different activities. You will need to investigate the field trip site, prepare the students and then follow up on what they have observed and learnt (see tips below).

### Tips for conducting field trips

- Select a site that will demonstrate interesting differences compared with the school grounds.
- Determine costs of transportation and admission (this may affect the site selection).
- Conduct a pre-trip site visit and note points of interest and potential hazards.

- Obtain permission from school administration and parents. Ask other teachers and parents to accompany you.
- Remind the students that the purpose of the field trip is to observe and analyse different habitats and to determine how people's actions have affected them.
- Prepare copies of the template in the Activity Book for the students to take notes.
- Discuss rules and instructions for the students regarding dress, behaviour and your expectations of them.
- Identify partners or small groups of students who will work together.
- Determine meeting places and times.
- After the field trip, encourage the students to share their thoughts and observations.
- Students should take great care not to destroy or negatively affect habitats during the trip.

Discussing what they have observed on the trip will develop students' critical thinking skills.

Once they have formulated their ideas about reducing people's impact on the environment, encourage them to develop advocacy skills by collating all the suggestions and creating a plan of action to protect the school grounds 'habitat'. This plan can then be presented to the principal.

### Activity 3



This allows for advocacy on a more personal level. Display the posters and discuss their effectiveness, with positive feedback.

### Reflection

This allows students to think about their own actions in the past and how they can improve them for the future.





# 4

## Pollution

**Student's Book pages 54 and 55**

**Activity Book page 28**

### Key Life Skills

- Critical thinking
- Decision-making
- Advocacy

### CARICOM Core outcomes

- Identify elements of a sustainable environment (air, sunlight, water, land, plants, animals).
- Identify threats to a sustainable environment.
- Identify environmental health threats with emphasis on priorities in their country.
- Appreciate the beauty of the environment.
- Identify practical opportunities for maintaining a sustainable environment and reducing health threats.
- Make appropriate choices to reduce exposure to environmental health risks for self and family.
- Appreciate that each individual has a responsibility to contribute to a healthy, sustainable environment.
- Identify the main factors and sources that contribute to environmental health threats.

### Objectives

At the end of this unit students should be able to:

- identify examples of pollution of land, air and water
- explain human activities that may cause pollution

- use advocacy skills to persuade others to protect the environment by reducing pollution
- demonstrate critical thinking skills in relation to their environment.

### Introduction

This is the first of three units on pollution. The main emphasis is on the different types of pollution and their sources/causes and on teaching responsibility for our own behaviours with regard to pollution. Unit 5 will look at air and water pollution and Unit 6 will examine more general health threats caused by pollution. For useful background information on pollution, see pages 73–76.

Very often people focus on land pollution from garbage (solid waste), but water and air pollution are just as important and our consumer habits and way of life contribute to all three types. Students are also introduced to the idea that polluted environments affect their emotions. The suggested activities:

- examine the pollutants generated by people's activities
- allow students to look at their own actions and examine if they themselves are polluting
- encourage students to think of alternative ways to do things that would be less polluting
- develop advocacy skills when students encourage each other and other members of the school community to address pollution problems.

Point out to the students that some of the types of pollution shown are common in many communities. Ask them to observe and think about their own community with questions such as:

- Have you ever seen these types of pollution?
- Do you know if they are against the law?

## MANAGING THE ENVIRONMENT

- Which organisations are responsible for dealing with them?

You could ask them to draw or map areas of pollution in their local environment, or even within the school grounds.

### Activity 1



This is intended to encourage students to think of their own role in creating pollution, either directly, such as dropping litter, or indirectly, such as by travelling in a bus or car. This could be developed to brainstorm different ways in which we all contribute directly or indirectly to pollution.

### Activity 2



This examines how students might react emotionally to pollution around them. It is important for them to understand that their surroundings affect not only their physical health (e.g. pollution causes asthma), but their emotional health. People feel calmer and happier when their environment is pleasing to them.

### Activity Book

The activities bring home to students the concept of pollution being 'personal', because it may be found in or near their school grounds. Encourage them to think critically about their immediate surroundings, and do something about them.

### Reflection

This encourages students to look at pollution from a personal perspective and take responsibility for improving the situation.



# 5

## Effects of Pollution

Student's Book pages 56 and 57

Activity Book page 29

### Key Life Skills

- Self-awareness
- Communication
- Decision-making

### CARICOM Core outcomes

- Identify threats to a sustainable environment.
- Identify environmental health threats with emphasis on priorities in their country.
- Identify ways in which the quality of the natural environment can affect personal health and the well-being of the school and community.
- Appreciate how a healthy, sustainable environment contributes to their well-being and that of their peers.
- Identify practical opportunities for maintaining a sustainable environment and reducing health threats.
- Make appropriate choices to reduce exposure to environmental health risks for self and family.
- Appreciate that each individual has a responsibility to contribute to a healthy, sustainable environment.
- Identify the main factors and sources that contribute to environmental health threats.

### Objectives

At the end of this unit students should be able to:

- state at least three common air- and water-borne diseases

- recognise ways in which pollution affects our health
- suggest ways of keeping the environment free from pollution
- use decision-making skills to select actions that might prevent pollution.

### Introduction

This unit addresses problems created by pollution, but places significant focus on air-borne and water-borne diseases. It also looks at ways to reduce or eliminate pollution. We are each responsible for reducing the amount of garbage we produce, and for trying to influence others to reduce pollution. See pages 73–76 for background factual information on this topic.

You could begin by reviewing Unit 4, which has information on other impacts of air, water and land pollution.

### Activity 1



This encourages students to observe and analyse their own surroundings and to determine if the air in their school surroundings is clean and healthy or not.

Encourage the students to look at and smell the air and to see if any classmates are sneezing or coughing (which could spread air-borne diseases). This is an opportunity to revise how germs are spread and how we should behave if we have a cold – stay home, use a handkerchief, cover mouth and nose, wash hands. Even if the air seems clean, infected persons can spread harmful bacteria and viruses through the air by their actions. In some areas students may be able to detect industrial or street/traffic pollution in the school grounds by the smell or by dust.

You could identify any students in the class who suffer from asthma, and encourage non-sufferers to understand what it is like for those who have to deal with this illness (a useful opportunity to practise empathy skills). Asthma can prevent persons from performing strenuous physical activities; those living with asthma have to be careful with their daily routines and may have to visit the hospital often. Encourage students to examine how they can change their own behaviour to support persons with these and other illnesses.

The second activity asks students to identify actions which will help to reduce pollution.

### Reflection

This can be used as a personal reflection, with students perhaps making a note of their thoughts, but might also be an opportunity for a group or class discussion, and even a campaign by the class to learn and practise advocacy in a real life situation.

### Activity 2



This points out important health impacts caused by pollution. Most of the illnesses or health impacts are well known or easy to understand. Some extra explanation is provided on pages 73–76. Concentrate on those health threats which are common in your community or country. Some other sources of information about air- and water-borne diseases and health impacts of pollution are:

<http://www.lenntech.com/library/diseases/diseases/waterborne-diseases.htm>

[http://www.nutramed.com/Air/airborne\\_diseases.htm](http://www.nutramed.com/Air/airborne_diseases.htm)

This activity also encourages students to personalise what they have learnt and to examine if their health or the health of a family member has ever been affected by pollution. They also can consider actions to prevent or reduce pollution.

### Activity Book

The first activity gets students to re-use solid waste items by creating useful and decorative items. Some ideas are given below.

Waste materials to re-use	Decorative/useful items to make
Paper, cloth scraps, pencil shavings, glass and plastic bottles/jars, bottle caps	Art work, collages, vases, pencil holders, notepads, potholders, candle holders



Student's Book pages 58 and 59

Activity Book page 30

### Key Life Skills

- Critical thinking
- Problem-solving
- Advocacy

### CARICOM Core outcomes

- Identify threats to a sustainable environment.
- Identify environmental health threats with emphasis on priorities in their country.
- Identify ways in which the quality of the natural environment can affect personal health and the well-being of the school and community.
- Appreciate how a healthy, sustainable environment contributes to their well-being and that of their peers.
- Identify practical opportunities for maintaining a sustainable environment and reducing health threats.
- Make appropriate choices to reduce exposure to environmental health risks for self and family.
- Appreciate that each individual has a responsibility to contribute to a healthy, sustainable environment.
- Identify the main factors and sources that contribute to environmental health threats.
- Identify sources of age-appropriate information relating to managing the environment.

### Objectives

At the end of this unit students should be able to:

- identify at least five health threats in their environments

- recognise that modifying the environment has created these health threats
- explain the importance of **maintaining** a healthy environment
- use problem-solving and advocacy skills to encourage useful environmental actions
- appreciate that personal and collective actions of students, family and community can reduce environmental health risks.

### Introduction

This unit analyses the differences between the natural and built environments and the changes that people have made to the natural environment in creating that built environment. Building on what the students learnt in Units 4 and 5, it looks at the health threats caused by those changes and examines ways to address them. It would be useful to revise relevant aspects of Units 4 and 5 before this unit.

An important concept to be brought out here is that of **maintaining** an environment, so that it can remain in a healthy state indefinitely. If persons use their environment well, and replace resources used up, then the environment will remain sustainable. This idea of sustainably utilising the natural resources is called **sustainable development**. For more factual information on this unit see pages 69–70.

The activities focus on changes in the environment that cause pollution. If students do not come up with ideas, then prompt them with clues:

- In towns and cities, many people live close together, causing all kinds of garbage. As you remember, garbage will be a good home for rats and cockroaches. These animals spread diseases. Diseases are easy to spread among people.
- In towns and cities pollution comes from factories, from cars and buses; we now suffer from more allergies and asthma.

- Large numbers of people create a lot of sewage, and sometimes this gets into our rivers or empties in the sea. The water we drink may carry diseases. The water we bathe in may cause skin rashes.
- Some people like to wash their cars in the road. The oil or gasoline might leak out into the water in the gutter. When it rains, all this polluted water runs down the road into the river, the gully or the sea. This causes fish and seaweeds to die.

### Activity 1



When comparing the natural and built environments you can use the pictures provided in the Student's Book, along with any other pictures you have of these two different kinds of environment. You could also take your students into a real environment which is different from their own; for example if the school is in a city, then let them do some observations there, and then take them out into the countryside to compare the two. (See tips for a field visit on page 128.) Or you could ask the students to talk to older people who remember the area where you live in earlier times, when it was rural or less built up. They can prepare questions about how it has changed in relation to pollution and the health and safety of the environment.

### Activities 2 and 3



Problem-solving is an important skill which involves students in critical thinking and also in decision-making. Revise problem-solving skills (page 26) before the students do these activities. Encourage them to analyse one environmental problem completely, from its source to its effects on people and the environment, and then think what can be done about it.

For more detailed information on the problems caused by water pollution, see page 75. Collect everyone's ideas and display them as a

comprehensive action plan which they can refer to in future lessons as needed.

Students can practise advocacy by persuading others to their own environmentally friendly point of view.

### Activity Book

The students can show their commitment by making a promise. Creative thinking skills can be used to make up a song, poem or announcement, individually or with others.

Then the students use problem-solving skills to look at problems in squatter settlements. It is a good idea to have some pictures of squatter settlements available. Be particularly sensitive if some of your students live in squatter settlements or similar poor housing areas. However, some of these students may have the best ideas for making improvements or solving problems. Debrief afterwards.

### Additional activity



At the end of the lesson you could give the students a set of statements with blank spaces to fill in:

- When I breathe air that is POLLUTED, it can make my ASTHMA worse.
- RATS can live in our GARBAGE left lying around and spread diseases.
- WATER, AIR and LAND are the three components of the natural physical environment.
- TOWNS and ROADS are part of the built or man-made environment.
- We need to keep our environment CLEAN and HEALTHY.
- People should work towards SUSTAINABLE environments.

### Reflection

This can be done as an individual reflection or pair activity for discussion, possibly with family members.



Student's Book pages 60 and 61

Activity Book page 31

### Key Life Skills

- Healthy self-management
- Interpersonal relations
- Communication

### CARICOM Core outcomes

- Identify threats to a sustainable environment.
- Identify environmental health threats with emphasis on priorities in their country.
- Identify ways in which the quality of the natural environment can affect personal health and the well-being of the school and community.
- Identify practical opportunities for maintaining a sustainable environment and reducing health threats.
- Make appropriate choices to reduce exposure to environmental health risks for self and family.
- Appreciate that each individual has a responsibility to contribute to a healthy, sustainable environment.

### Objectives

At the end of this unit students should be able to:

- develop a willingness to respond to hurricane bulletins.
- state at least three ways to remain safe during a hurricane or other natural hazard
- demonstrate ability to develop disaster plans of action
- communicate preparation plans to others

- take personal responsibility for discussing plans of action with parents.

### Introduction

Units 7 and 8 deal with natural hazards and disasters, with a focus on hurricanes (as one type of natural disaster common in many parts of the Caribbean). If hurricanes are not common in your own country or region it may be more appropriate to learn something about hurricanes as a regional phenomenon, but then move on to concentrate more on natural hazards that you do experience from time to time, such as floods or earthquakes. You can use the activities here as a model.

The unit emphasises taking personal responsibility for appropriate actions and focuses on developing plans of action for before, during and after a natural hazard.

For more background information on this topic see page 79.

### Activity 1



Most Caribbean students (except those from Guyana or Trinidad) have some experience of hurricanes. The first activity covers the importance of the national bulletins. It draws on students' prior knowledge and experience and makes them think about what they usually do when a hurricane is coming.

### Activity 2



A list of hurricane tips is given in the Student's Book. Encourage students to add other things from their own knowledge or personal experience. You can also add points from the disaster management agency's list.



## MANAGING THE ENVIRONMENT

Plans created by the students should include what to do:

- before a particular type of natural hazard – the day before, a few hours before
- during a particular type of natural hazard
- after a particular type of natural hazard – right after, the next day, a few days after.

Give students feedback on their preparedness plans and encourage them to discuss them with their parents or other responsible adults at home. It is not enough to simply show their plan to the parents – encourage them to get ideas from the adults. Students who have learnt about planning and preparation activities can encourage their parents and others to take appropriate actions when a hurricane is approaching.

An important part of hurricane preparedness and recovery is related to the emotional state of persons going through it – the student, as well as others around him or her. Encourage them to believe that all feelings are acceptable and that they should not be ashamed about any of them. Some possible emotions are: being frightened, nervous, calm, caring of others around them, sad, anxious, angry, excited.

### **Activity Book**

This provides an opportunity to revise, develop and practise healthy self-management skills. As usual, you should model the skill for the students before asking them to do it for themselves.

### **Reflection**

This is intended for personal reflection on the unit and self-evaluation.



# Effects of Disasters

Student's Book pages 62 and 63

Activity Book page 32

## Key Life Skills

- Decision-making
- Interpersonal relations
- Communication

## CARICOM Core outcomes

- Identify threats to a sustainable environment.
- Identify environmental health threats with emphasis on priorities in their country.
- Identify ways in which the quality of the natural environment can affect personal health and the well-being of the school and community.
- Identify practical opportunities for maintaining a sustainable environment and reducing health threats.
- Make appropriate choices to reduce exposure to environmental health risks for self and family.
- Appreciate that each individual has a responsibility to contribute to a healthy, sustainable environment.

## Objectives

At the end of this unit students should be able to:

- identify at least three ways that people are affected by hurricanes
- state what they would do to ensure their safety before, during and after a hurricane.

## Introduction

Units 7 and 8 both address natural hazards and disasters with a focus on hurricanes as one

type of natural hazard. This unit focuses on the impacts of hurricanes (on the physical and built environment) and also on how they affect people. Remind students of the actions to be taken before, during and after a hurricane. For background information on this topic see page 79.

## Activity 1



The first activity considers the possible effects of hurricanes as disasters. Ask the students to look at the picture carefully and then discuss in their groups the impact of the hurricane on the different types of environment – living, built, and physical.

If you live in an area which does not experience hurricanes you may want to apply the activities here to a different natural hazard, using an alternative picture or relying on students' own experiences.

## Activity 2



When you have read Terry's account of the hurricane, ask the students for their own personal recollections of hurricanes which they have experienced. Get them to explain how they felt, as well as what happened.

## Activity 3



The students will review the hurricane preparedness plans they created in Unit 7. The activity also has them examine the hurricane survival kit of a partner and compare it to their own. Some people need to make sure certain items are in the kit that might not be necessary for others: specific medicines, other health-related items, special foods, etc.

## MANAGING THE ENVIRONMENT

You could play a game where each student has to choose one item from their kit which they think is the most important, and would be the thing they would keep if they could only have one item. They then have to argue for their object, saying why it is so important, how it can be used, etc. The class then either rank the objects in order or vote for the most important three items.

### Activity Book

Hurricanes, earthquakes, heavy rains and tsunamis often cause floods – another kind of natural hazard or disaster. Very often actions that people do worsen the impacts of natural hazards, turning them into disasters. Encourage the students to think about some of the actions which caused specific problems depicted in the picture. They include:

- dumping garbage in gullies (so that water cannot flow freely)
- continuing to drive on flooded roads and bridges
- building houses too close to river banks
- cutting down trees from hillsides.

### Reflection

Remind the students that they can take actions to remain calm during a natural hazard or disaster. Being prepared and knowing what should be done help people to remain calm and behave rationally. Encourage the students to consider what could be done to help others before, during and after the disaster.



## Life skills steps for students – photocopy masters

The key steps on the following pages are adapted and simplified for upper primary students but you may need or want to simplify them further for your own students, especially at Level 4. To do this you may want to reduce the number of steps and/or simplify the language. For examples of more simplified steps see *Teacher's Guide K to 3*, pages 106–126.

*(Source for steps, adapted from C. Constantine, EDC, 2005-06-12 and David and Roger Johnson: <http://www.clcrc.com>)*

# Self-esteem

## Key steps

- What do I love/like/value about myself?
- What do other people love/like/value about me?
- I am good at ...
- How can I contribute?
- What do I have to celebrate?

# Self-confidence

## Key steps

- I know my talents, strengths and achievements.
- I would like to be able to ...
- I can improve ...
- I can try something new.
- I can celebrate what I can do!



# Self-awareness

## Key steps

- What makes me happy?
- What makes me sad or stressed?
- How do these feelings affect my behaviour?
- What is important to me? What do I value?
- What habits do I have?
- What have I learnt about myself today?

# Self-monitoring

## Key steps

- How am I feeling today?
- How am I behaving today?
- What do I need? Recognise when something isn't right.
- What should I do? Where can I get help?

# Healthy self-management

## Key steps

- How do I feel and behave?
- How does my behaviour affect my health?
- What should I do to be healthy?
- Choose healthy behaviour.
- How has that choice helped or hurt me?

# Goal setting

## Key steps

- What do I want/need? (today/tomorrow/next week/when I grow up)
- Is it realistic?
- How much time do I have?
- Imagine getting to my goal.
- What steps will I take?
- Who can help me?
- What might stop me?
- How well am I doing?
- Celebrate each step.
- I can do it!

# Coping with emotions

## Key steps

- How am I feeling?
- Why am I feeling that way?
- How does the feeling make me behave?
- Does my behaviour affect me or others?  
Does it have good or bad effects?
- Can I change anything?

# Coping with stress

## Key steps

- What makes me feel stressed?
- What signs tell me I'm stressed?
- What helps me feel better?
- Who can I talk to?
- What should I avoid?

# Communication

## Key steps – Listening

- Listen to the words.
- Look at the body language.
- Face the speaker and look them in the eyes.
- Encourage the speaker with nods and brief words.
- Check you have understood correctly.
- Do not interrupt.
- Give them your full attention.



# Communication skills

## Key steps – Speaking

- What message do I want to tell others?
- Pick a good time.
- Face the listener and look them in the eyes.
- Speak clearly and not too fast.
- Speak kindly and with respect.
- Do my voice and body say the same thing?
- Watch their responses.
- If necessary take a break to calm down.

# Interpersonal and relationship skills

## Key steps

- Respect others.
- Try to understand their view.
- Listen carefully.
- Manage your emotions.
- Remember other people's names.
- Treat the other person as you'd like them to treat you.

# Negotiation

## Key steps

- Listen carefully.
- Explain clearly what you want.
- Be willing to give and take.
- Try to think of a way you can both be happy.

# Refusal skills

## Key steps

- Say 'No'.
- Use a strong, clear voice.
- Keep eye contact and make sure your body language says 'No'.
- Do not smile.
- Repeat your refusal as often as necessary.
- If necessary, walk away.
- Tell a trusted adult.

# Assertiveness

## Key steps

- Speak clearly and firmly.
- Be respectful and honest.
- State your needs. Use 'I ...' sentences.
- Say 'No' if you need to.
- Do not criticise or blame the other person.
- Describe the facts.

# Empathy

## Key steps

- Listen carefully and well.
- Imagine how the other person feels.
- Try to understand.
- How can I show support?
- What would he or she like me to do?

# Co-operation and teamwork

## Key steps

- How can I help or take part?
- Respect others and help them too.
- Learn from others.
- Work well together on the task.
- What could we have done better?

# Advocacy

## Key steps

- What is the problem?
- Who or what needs help?
- Who can help them?
- What can I do or say to persuade them to help?
- How will I do or say it?



# Critical thinking

## Key steps

- Do I have all the facts/truth?
- How will this help me?
- Ask questions about the facts.
- Think about the answers.
- What do I think now?
- Do I need more information?

# Creative thinking

## Key steps

- Find out and talk about it.
- Think of lots of possible options.
- Think about the consequences of each option.
- Choose the best option.
- Try out your ideas.
- Did they work?

# Problem-solving

## Key steps

- What is the problem?
- Find out more.
- What are the options?
- What are the consequences of each option?
- Choose the best option.
- Act on it.
- Afterwards – did I choose the best option?

# Decision-making

## Key steps

- What do we have to decide?
- What choices are there?
- What are the consequences of each choice?
- Which choice fits with my values?
- Who can help me decide?
- Should I act now or later?
- Select the best choice and act.
- Afterwards – did I make the best choice?

# Glossary

This glossary is intended to help the teacher – it is NOT intended as a list of words which students need to learn or be taught.

**advocacy:** speaking out on behalf of a person or group to give support.

**aerobic exercise:** continuous rhythmic exercise which increases heart rate and lung function.

**AIDS:** Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

**anti-retrovirals (ARVs) or anti-retroviral treatment (ART):** drug treatment which can prevent or halt AIDS and keep someone with HIV well for many years.

**attitudes:** positive or negative views or judgements about things or issues.

**balanced diet or meal:** a diet or meal made up of foods from all six food groups.

**biodiversity:** the variety of plants and animals (including micro-organisms) either in a particular place or on planet Earth.

**bullying:** when a person or group intentionally threatens or harms someone else by verbal, physical or emotional means.

**carbon cycle:** how carbon circulates on Earth.

**carbon footprint:** the amount of carbon dioxide a person is responsible for making by what they do, use and consume – human responsibility for global warming.

**cervical cancer:** the growth of abnormal cells on the cervix (neck of the womb). If untreated the cancer may spread to other parts of the body. Nowadays a vaccine is available in some countries to prevent cervical cancer.

**community:** the area where we live or spend time and the people who live there with us.

**conscious consumption:** understanding the effects of your own buying and consumption.

**cultural diversity of foods:** different cultures have different foods.

**culture:** the way of life of a particular group; their attitudes, practices, values and behaviours.

**discrimination:** treating people unfairly or unequally because of a category they fall into, e.g. because of gender or race.

**diversity:** the wide range of physical, emotional, mental and social attributes, and ethnic, cultural, religious, language and other characteristics, which make us all different and unique.

**ecosystem:** a community of plants and animals in an area which interact with each other and the non-living elements of their environment.

**empathy:** imagining how someone else feels, putting yourself in their shoes.

**endangered species:** plants and animals that are threatened with extinction because their populations are low.

**endemic species:** an organism that is found in only one country or region and nowhere else in the world.

**endurance:** the ability to do an exercise or activity for a length of time.

**environment:** everything around us, our surroundings. It can include a small area around the home or school, or even the planet Earth.

**environmental health threats:** health threats that come from pollution (e.g. respiratory diseases), from natural disasters (e.g. flooding), from natural hazards such as insects, and from man-made hazards such as broken pavements.

**extinct:** extinct plants and animals are those which have died out everywhere in the world.

**flexibility:** the range of movements in body muscles and joints.

**food chain:** a flow chart showing the food connections between the Sun, plants and animals.

**food groups:** foods are commonly divided into six groups: staples, legumes, vegetables, fruits, foods from animals, fats and oils.

## GLOSSARY

**food web:** a diagram showing the feeding interrelationships between animals and plants in an area or habitat.

**gender:** being biologically male or female; the social and cultural aspects of being male or female, which we learn as we grow up.

**gender identity:** knowing your own gender.

**gender roles:** the roles and expectations of men and women, boys and girls in society.

**gender stereotypes:** the commonly held, fixed ideas about gender roles.

**global warming:** the rising temperatures of the Earth which are affecting our climate and sea levels.

**globalisation:** the spread of large, international companies using raw materials and labour from many different parts of the world.

**goals:** objectives or targets.

**greenhouse gases:** carbon dioxide and other gases given off by natural and man-made processes which are trapping heat inside the Earth's atmosphere and causing global warming.

**habitat:** the home or environment of a particular plant or animal species; the place where that plant or animal lives that provides it with food, water, shelter and space.

**habits:** things we commonly do and which may be difficult to change.

**health:** physical, mental and emotional well-being, not simply the absence of illness.

**healthy lifestyle:** a lifestyle which includes healthy food, exercise or activity, rest and sleep, mental stimulation and social support.

**HIV:** Human Immuno-deficiency Virus.

**hypertension:** high blood pressure.

**incest:** sexual intercourse between people who are closely related in the same family, for example father and daughter, or siblings.

**indigenous:** a species that is native to a particular country, i.e. it was not brought there from another country.

**intimacy:** closeness with another person, an emotional bond.

**lifestyle diseases:** lack of regular exercise and poor eating habits help to cause many diseases such as diabetes, heart disease and hypertension (high blood pressure). These are chronic diseases which cannot be cured, only treated; once you have them they stay with you for life.

**living things:** plants, animals and people, including very small organisms such as bacteria and viruses.

**multimix principle:** choosing a variety of foods from different food groups – staples, fats and oils, vegetables, legumes and nuts, foods from animals, fruits.

**non-living things:** in the natural environment these include sunlight, water, air and the land.

**non-renewable resources:** resources such as fossil fuels (coal, gas, oil) and metals, of which there are only finite amounts on the Earth; they do not renew themselves.

**nutrients:** substances we get from our food which our bodies need for various functions: to build bone, muscles and other tissues, to make us grow, to help heal us and fight diseases, to give us energy.

**obesity:** being dangerously overweight because of the storage of excess fat.

**peer pressure:** pressure from friends or others of your own age to behave in certain ways. Peer pressure can be positive or negative.

**personal growth:** developing your attitudes, values, goals and other aspects of yourself.

**physical fitness:** the ability to exercise or do activities.

**pollution:** harmful materials entering the environment as a result of human activities, for example chemical fumes, waste water and solid by-products from industries, transport, farming and households.

**prejudice:** having opinions about someone without finding out the truth.

**puberty:** the beginning of adolescence, when children start to change into adults.

**rape:** forcing a person to have sexual intercourse.

**recycling:** re-using materials for a different purpose, for example collecting waste paper and using it to make new paper.

**relationships:** your interactions and connections with others.

**renewable energy:** unlike fossil fuels which are non-renewable, solar, wind, wave, tide and water (hydro-electric) energy are renewable and sustainable.

**renewable resources:** resources in the natural world which are capable of renewing themselves, such as forests or fish stocks. However, even these can be over-used so that they are no longer able to renew themselves.

**resources:** things from the environment which we make use of.

**safe food handling:** choosing safe, clean foods and storing and preparing them safely to avoid illnesses such as diarrhoea.

**safer sex:** abstinence is the safest protection from STIs and pregnancy; less safe are avoiding any exchange of body fluids and the use of condoms; unprotected intercourse is least safe.

**safety principles (for exercise):** exercising safely, building up the amount gradually and using the appropriate safety gear.

**self-awareness:** knowledge about all aspects of yourself, your positive and negative attributes.

**self-concept:** what you know and believe about yourself; the image you have of yourself.

**self-esteem:** the value you place on yourself; the feelings you have about your own worth.

**sensuality:** awareness of our own bodies and senses and the pleasure they can give us.

**sex:** being biologically and physically male or female; sexual activity.

**sexual abuse:** when an adult or child touches a child's private parts, shows a child their own private parts or shows a child pornographic images.

**sexual harassment:** making someone feel uncomfortable by touching them, asking for sexual favours or talking about sex.

**sexual health:** the health of your body's reproductive organs.

**sexualisation:** making something sexual, usually to influence others; for example, using models dressed in provocative clothing in advertisements to sell cars.

**sexuality:** maleness and femaleness, and all the different ways people express their maleness and femaleness; how people relate to others to whom they are attracted.

**stereotyping:** categorising people and generalising about them based on characteristics such as gender and ethnicity.

**stigma:** the feeling of being looked down on, or shame felt by people who have been stereotyped with bad attributes or behaviour.

**STIs/STDs:** sexually transmitted infections, sexually transmitted diseases. Some are bacterial, others are viruses, including HIV. They can cause illness, death and infertility if untreated. Abstinence or condom use protect against STIs.

**strength:** the ability to exert force, for example by lifting or pushing.

**substance abuse:** recreational use of substances such as alcohol, tobacco and other drugs which harm our bodies.

**sustainable development:** building in such a way that future generations can continue to live as well as we do now.

**sustainable living:** living in a way which means that the Earth's resources are conserved for future generations and can continue to be used; for example, replanting forest trees as they are used.

**universal precautions:** the rules by which people can deal with the tiny risk of HIV transmission from contact with blood in accidents and similar situations.

**values:** beliefs in which you have an emotional investment.

**waste:** things we do not want and throw away; solid and liquid wastes can cause pollution.

**water cycle:** the continuous movement of water on, above and below the Earth.