

Firelight Newsflash! 30 June 2008 - Resources for Programs with Young People

Our Right to Be Protected From Violence: Activities for Learning and Taking Action for Young People

This online booklet is designed for adults, youth leaders, and peer educators who work with groups of young people aged 12–18 in community centres, youth groups, and other settings. The book gives activities that can be used to help others learn about violence issues, and ideas for taking action against violence. It provides a short version of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and activities to familiarise youth with the document. The booklet also intends to prepare leaders of activities, particularly youth leaders, for the personal stories and strong feelings that may result from group work. It includes basics of working with groups such as agenda setting and guidelines for participation, as well as types of activities including discussion formats, role plays, action research, reporting, evaluation, and closing activities. It encourages action and contains guidance on action planning.

To download the booklet in English,
see: http://www.violencestudy.org/IMG/pdf/Our_Right_to_be_Protected_from_Violence-2.pdf

En francais: <http://www.violencestudy.org/IMG/pdf/OurRiActivBroFr4.pdf>

It Costs Almost Nothing: Beneficial Indoor Games and Handicrafts from Rubbish and Recycled Materials

All children deserve the same opportunities to play and learn, including children orphaned and otherwise made vulnerable by HIV and AIDS. Educational games, handicrafts, and play teach them many skills needed in daily life—including problem-solving, logic, geography, and mathematics.

Activities in this 148-page book promote the psycho-social wellbeing of children affected by HIV and AIDS and poverty as part of a comprehensive strategy to reduce their vulnerability. The book is filled with photographs, illustrations, and diagrams for easy use by teachers, volunteers, and caregivers in pre-schools, art classes, and after-school and home settings. Several Namibian organizations cooperated with the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare to produce it.

As the title suggests, all the games and crafts in this book have been adapted so that they can be made cheaply or at no-cost, using rubbish and recycled

materials that are commonly found in Southern Africa.

http://www.fhi.org/en/HIVAIDS/pub/res_CostsAlmostNothing.htm

<http://www.fhi.org/NR/rdonlyres/edypbi3h63ylls2ec6ajnj23lfjlui5s73yyyyfons4oe7t34vh5feoqt54qyl6ewx7sechoduump/CostsAlmostNothingHV.pdf>

New Youth-Focused Publications from the International AIDS Alliance

Sexuality and life-skills: participatory activities on sexual and reproductive health with young people

This toolkit is written for anyone who wants to facilitate participatory learning activities with young people to equip them with the knowledge, positive attitudes and skills to grow up and enjoy sexual and reproductive health and well-being. This includes peer educators and leaders, outreach workers, teachers, community workers and others. To download the publication, see:

http://www.aidsalliance.org/custom_asp/publications/view.asp?publication_id=295

FEEL! THINK! ACT! A guide to interactive drama for sexual and reproductive health with young people

Many of us are looking for better ways of working with young people to think about and take action to improve sexual and reproductive health (SRH). This toolkit looks at how we can use interactive drama for this purpose. It contains ideas and drama and discussion activities aimed at helping us to learn about SRH issues and to gain skills in facilitating and using Interactive drama tools and techniques. To download the publication, see:

http://www.aidsalliance.org/custom_asp/publications/view.asp?publication_id=296

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COMPETITION: International Children's Peace Prize

Nominations due: 1 August 2008

Every year KidsRights Foundation organises the International Children's Peace Prize. This prize is awarded annually to a child, whose courageous or otherwise extraordinary efforts have made an impact on behalf of the Rights of the Child. The Children's Peace Prize was awarded so far posthumously to Nkosi Johnson of South Africa, to Om Prakash Gurjar of India, and to Thandiwe Chama of Zambia. Om Prakash was himself a child-slave for many years, and since his liberation fights for the prevention of this horrid form of abuse of basic children's rights. Thandiwe Chama has been fighting for education for the very poorest ever since her own school was closed down when she was eight years old due to lack of funds.

This year again, the International Children's Peace Prize will be celebrated at the end of the year. KidsRights invite you to inform them about the children you meet and work with and whom you feel might be a good candidate for this Prize. The criteria include:

- Children between the age of 12 - 18 years old,
- An inspiring personality,
- The child must have developed her or his activities in the field of children's rights already for some time, and

These activities must have lead to at least some concrete results. Nominations can be sent to KidsRights before the 1 August 2008. The nomination form can be downloaded [here](#), or attached below. Both the nomination form and guidelines can be requested at info@childrenspeaceprize.org. For more information, visit www.childrenspeaceprize.org

Regional Psychosocial Initiative (REPSSI) Publications Available Online

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

REPSSI is a regional non-profit organisation working to mitigate the psychosocial impact of HIV and AIDS, poverty and conflict among children and youth in 13 countries in East and Southern Africa. They aim to develop knowledge in the application of psychosocial care and support and have many tools and resources available online. Below you can download selected publications relevant to working with young people.

[Making a Hero Book: Facilitator's Guide](#)

This manual steps you through the process of facilitating a group of children

through a series of autobiographical storytelling and art exercises to create their own Hero Books. By doing this, the children find solutions to the personal and social challenges they face. The process also helps to encourage the community to respond to these challenges in an active way.

Memory Box Manual

Memory tools are used for people to record their own life stories. Memory work was begun by a group of HIV positive mothers in Uganda who used memory books and boxes to help them disclose their positive status to their children, as well as to begin the process of future planning together. One person, a parent and child, a whole family or a group can make the memory box.

Tree of Life Manual

This manual sets out how to go about using the Tree of Life tool. The Tree of Life is a psychosocial support tool based on Narrative Practices. It is a tool that uses different parts of a tree as metaphors to represent the different aspects of our lives. The use of metaphors and carefully formulated questions invites children and others to tell stories about their lives in ways that make them stronger and more hopeful about the future.

Psychosocial care and support for young children and infants in the time of HIV and Aids: A resource

This manual provides guidelines for providing psychosocial care and support to young children. This manual centres around the belief that the most sustainable, powerful and important form of PSS is everyday care and support provided by families, households, friends, teachers and community members.

New IRIN film: Love, Positively - coming of age with HIV in Uganda

IRIN/PlusNews is pleased to announce the release of its latest short documentary film - "Love, Positively". Uganda is home to a growing number of young adults who were born HIV-positive and have lived their entire lives with the virus. Love, Positively follows the lives of four young adults living in the Ugandan capital, Kampala, who were infected at birth but, against the odds, are alive and well. It explores some of the challenges they faced growing up with HIV and how they view their future lives and current relationships.

Read more at: <http://www.plusnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=78926>

As with all IRIN films, the aim of this film is to increase awareness and understanding of humanitarian crises. IRIN creates advocacy material but remains dependant on partners for the widest possible dissemination of its

products. Limited DVD copies are available free of charge. While we will try to meet demand, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to provide copies to all who request. To order a copy, please click on the following link:

<http://www.irinnews.org/filmorders/filmorders.asp>

FIVE POINTS TO STOP BULLYING

Reports of discrimination and bullying at school surface regularly: a child who is seen as different in some way – culture, race, gender, family situation, ability, size and so on – is picked on, humiliated, excluded or even physically attacked. Often other children nearby wish they could stop the bullying, but don't know how. Some good advice to children and young people is to use the following plan of action to help stop harassment in its tracks:

1. Assess if you are Physically Safe

- Sometimes it isn't safe to intervene when you witness discrimination or harassment. If you are afraid for your own physical safety, quickly go and find an adult who can help.
- If you feel you are not physically in danger, then proceed to step 2.

2. Address the Harassment

- Interrupt the interaction.
- Say something like, "Hey, John is my friend, stop harassing him!" or "Leave John alone." Bullies often back down when someone challenges them on their behavior.

3. Put the Focus on the Bully

- Say something like, "You just put John down. That is really disrespectful."
- Put the spotlight on the bully's behavior. Do NOT say anything to imply that the person being harassed belongs to the group just named.

4. Name the Harassment and its Consequences

- Identify the offense and its consequences: "Calling someone names is rude and hurtful." "Pushing others around is not okay."

5. Refuse to Join In

- Say something like, "By pushing John around you are being a bully. Don't ask me to go along; I think it's mean and uncalled for." Or "I won't be quiet when you

act like that."

- Quietly, check in with the person who was harassed: "Are you okay?" "Do you want to talk?"

(from Advocates for Youth: <http://www.advocatesforyouth.org>)

As part of the Firelight Foundation's Monitoring, Evaluation and Technical Assistance (META) Program, Firelight provides "Newsflashes" to share relevant resources and information with our active grantee-partners via weekly emails and via post on a monthly basis. We hope that by facilitating access to information for grassroots, community-focused organizations, programming for children and families, as well as organizational development, is enhanced. We welcome your comments, feedback and ideas for upcoming Newsflashes at newsletter@firelightfoundation.org.