PARTY CARDS ACTIVITY for CONFRONTING SEXUAL HARASSMENT

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PARTY CARDS ACTIVITY DIRECTIONS

1. Begin by telling students: Today we will look at this idea called respect. Respect is an expression of consideration, especially for someone's feelings. Respect is also showing appreciation. What are other ways that people are shown respect? Let's find out. (HEB 332)

2. Read these directions to students and make sure they understand them: Let's begin by using a little imagination. At this time, let's have a party. Our party will be somewhat different, however, because each person will have a different set of instructions to follow. Each of you will receive a piece of paper with your own personal message to others. The paper will be taped on your back where you can't see it. After everyone gets their special message, I will be giving you various topics to discuss as you socialize and get to know each other. Between each topic I will say, "STOP." At that time, please turn your attention to me for the next topic. As you discuss the topics, others may react to your unique message. Oh yes, do not share the personal messages with anyone until the party is over! Later on we will see if the persons wearing a message can guess what it is.

3. Tape a message to each of student's back. Some students will receive the same message. The messages are on pages 4-7. You will need only one copy to cut apart.

4. If you have a cassette or CD player, begin playing some party music loud enough to hear but not too loud as to disturb any neighbors. You may also consider playing music from the Internet from various music sites such as mp3.com. If not, that's OK too, just skip this part.

5. Then start the party by reading the first topic. After about two minutes, say STOP, wait to get their attention, and read the next topic. Make sure students understand they must read the cards on each other’s back and act accordingly as they make ‘small talk’ on these topics. Here are the topics to use:
--How would you describe the last party that you attended?
--What is your favorite thing to do on the weekend when you don't have any chores or other responsibilities?
--If you had to choose a favorite musician or musical group, who would it be and why?
--If someone gave you a million dollars to throw the next party, on the condition that you spent every dollar on the party, how would you do it?
FOLLOW UP DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS:

1. How did other people behave towards you? (HEB 332)
2. What do you think your personal message says and how was communication affected by your message?
   ANSWER: Sometimes how a person sees you or how they think of you will affect just how they speak with you.
2. How did you know when you were too close or too far from the person you were speaking with? (HEB 331)
   ANSWER: You must judge by the person's expressions to know if they are comfortable with you. Sometimes it is hard to tell so it is up to the other person to tell you or for you to ask.
3. What is personal space? HEB 331
   ANSWER: Personal space is the amount of space around you, at any given time or situation, that you feel comfortable with someone else.
4. How is personal space a consideration in sexual harassment? HEB 332
   ANSWER: Repeatedly violating someone's personal space and making him/her uncomfortable with sexual attention is considered sexual harassment. Respecting someone’s personal space shows consideration toward others.

Conclude with: You have all had a chance to interact at our special party. The goal of this particular activity was to teach the definition and concept of respecting the personal space of others. Each person brings to a conversation many things: ideas, beliefs, habits, skills, and a comfort zone. Some of you experienced what it was like trying to figure out how to get into a comfortable stance for both you and the other person with whom you were talking. If someone was closer to you than you wanted, you might have felt annoyed. When someone gives you unwanted sexual attention, in the form of words, pictures, or actions, the feelings only get stronger. You might feel angry, confused, helpless, and even violated. It is important to make certain that the other person is interested and open to your comments and or behavior no matter what the nature of your conversation is about.
PARTY CARDS (Make one copy, cut apart and tape one to each student's back. Students should not know what their sign says and some students may have the same signs.

Disregard the topic and make comments about my feet! Say things like, "Ooooh, those are the best looking pair of feet I have ever seen!"

Disregard the topic and make comments about my hands! Say things like, "Ooooh, those are the best looking pair of hands I have ever seen!"

I hate it when people look me directly in the eyes when
talking with me, so you should probably not look into my eyes.

I like to hold hands when I'm talking to a friend so hold my hand.

I like to talk with others ONLY when there is nobody around so let’s find a quiet spot.

I like people to get up close to me when I'm talking with them. You’re too far away.
I scare you. Act nervous when talking to me.

I am not comfortable with people in my face. Stay at least 5 feet away when talking to me.

You are VERY interested in getting my phone number, but are too shy to ask me directly.

You are extremely interested in what I have to say.