**Sexual Harassment Prevention**

**Flirting and Boundaries**

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

Students will create a foundation for healthy communication within relationships by identifying healthy flirting behaviors and learning to respect personal boundaries while flirting. Students will contrast healthy flirting and respectful communication with sexual harassment behaviors and identify different ways to be an active bystander.

**STATE/NATIONAL LEARNING RESULTS**

MAINE – C2: Avoiding/Reducing Health Risks, D1: Influence on Health Practices/Behaviors, E1: Interpersonal Communication Skills, E2: Advocacy Skills

NATIONAL –2: Students will analyze influence of family, peers, culture, media, technology, and other factors on health behavior; and 4: Demonstrate the ability to use interpersonal communication skills to enhance health and avoid or reduce health risks.

**Grade Level:** 7

**Time:** 30 minutes

**Materials:** scripts, flip chart paper, markers, worksheets, Prezi file, laptop

**ACTIVITY OUTLINE:**

1. Flirting Gallery Walk
2. Sexual Harassment Link

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **FLIRTING GALLERY WALK**   1. **Gallery Walk**    * + 1. We have set up posters around the room asking different questions about flirting. We are going to break you into groups of 3-4 (base this on class size) and ask your group to go around the room and answer each question on the poster. We will let you know when it is time to move onto the next poster.    1. The questions we want you to think about and answer are:       1. What are some examples of how people flirt?       2. What is the purpose of flirting?       3. How can it feel when someone flirts with you? How does it feel when you like the flirting? How does it feel when you don’t like the flirting? 2. **Discussion**    1. So let’s go over these questions together – “What are some examples of how people flirt?” (Eye contact, acting silly, laughing at jokes, body language, compliments, etc.) *[Ask if there are any other thoughts about this question; acknowledge that this can be awkward to talk about but that you appreciate the participation].*    2. Let’s move onto the second question, “What is the purpose of flirting?” (We want to show someone we like them. We are trying to figure out if they that person likes us. We flirt because we are exploring the feelings and boundaries associated with the romantic feelings we are having. Basically we are testing the waters with the person we like.) *[Presenter may need to ask follow up questions i.e. Why do we flirt?]*    3. Now that we have a good definition of flirting and understand why we do it, let’s talk about what it feels like to be flirted with. Question number three says, “How can it feel when someone flirts with us? How does it feel when we like the flirting? How does it feel when we don’t like the flirting? (Like it - Good, happy, nervous, still awkward, self-esteem goes up, butterflies in stomach, excited) (Doesn’t like it - Scared, worried, anxious, angry, annoyed, confused, awkward)    4. **So given all this information, what do you think we call flirting that is unwanted and happens over and over again? (Sexual Harassment)** | **NOTES/PREP:**  *Give the students 45 seconds to 1 minute at each poster. Feel free to shorten or lengthen times based on group observations. Give students a 30 second warning when it is approaching time to move onto the next poster.* |
| **SEXUAL HARASSMENT LINK**   1. **Define Sexual Harassment** 2. Now, we completely understand that this may an uncomfortable thing to talk about. Do you normally talk about sexual harassment and flirting in school? But do we see flirting and sexual harassment happen around us? (Yes). This is why we want to have a conversation about it today. We don’t talk about these things often, but it is important to do so because we see it happening around us all the time. 3. You’ve probably heard about sexual harassment, but we want to make sure we all have a clear understanding of what it is and how it can happen. Let’s start by breaking down the definition together. 4. Let’s start with basic harassment. **What is harassment?** (Harassment is when someone does something that is unwanted.) 5. **Who gets to decide if the behavior is unwanted, the person doing the harassing or the person being harassed?** What if the harasser says “it’s just a joke, stop being so sensitive!” (The person receiving the behavior gets to decide if it’s unwanted or not, even if it’s just a “joke”. That doesn’t change how they feel. If it makes them uncomfortable, the harasser needs to stop the behavior.) 6. **Does harassment happen just one time?** (No harassment is repeated.) 7. **What are the ways a person might experience harassment?** (Physical, Verbal, Written or Cyber) 8. Ok let’s talk about what turns harassment into sexual harassment. Any time that harassment is sexual in nature, we call that sexual harassment. 9. “Sexual in nature” means that the harassment is about someone’s gender, who they’re attracted to 10. It doesn’t have to be sexually graphic or explicit for the harassment to be sexual in nature. 11. It can sometimes be difficult to identify what sexual harassment is so let’s break it down like we did with harassment – we are going to identify what it can look like in each realm of verbal, physical, and written/cyber:     * + - 1. Verbal: comments about private parts, sexual rumors (who likes who), sexual requests (can include asking someone out over and over again), sexual name calling (slut, gay, fag, ho, etc.), sexual comments or unwanted nicknames (sweetie, honey, cutie, baby, etc.), sexual jokes, calling someone fat, telling someone they look like a boy or girl based on what they are wearing or how they are acting (telling a boy, “that shirt makes you look like such a girl”.)           2. Written/Cyber: sexual notes, obsessive love letters, sexual graffiti (writing things on bathroom walls, desks, lockers, “For a good time call…”, etc.), sexual drawings, sexual emails, IMs, chat, texts, Snapchats, Instagrams, etc. Writing or posting mean comments about someone’s appearance/body, writing comments about someone’s gender or calling someone a boy/girl based on how they look/act.           3. Physical: Touching/grabbing of someone’s body/private parts, rubbing/grinding against someone, cornering someone, pulling clothes up, down, or off, unwanted hugs/kisses, sexual gestures (motions with hands, mouth, tongue, body), sexual staring or leering at private parts, pinching or touching someone’s sides or other body parts. 12. Are some of the things that are listed here ways that people might flirt with one another? (Yes) Absolutely, but based on the definitions we just went over, what makes these things sexual harassment? (Unwanted and repeated). 13. So what exactly is the difference between flirting and sexual harassment? We know that sexual harassment is unwanted, repeated, and sexual in nature so the first big difference is that flirting is WANTED. There are also several other things that help us determine if something is flirting versus sexual harassment. 14. *[Write the following into T-Chart on the board and discuss as you are listing]*  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Flirting:**   * Wanted * Feels good, increases confidence * Complimentary * Mutual or shared * Non-threatening * Builds the esteem of both people * Feels equal to both people | **Sexual Harassment:**   * Unwanted * Feels bad, decreases confidence * One-sided * Threatening * Builds up ego of giver, tears down esteem of recipient * Gives one person power over the other * Demanding and insulting |  1. Like basic harassment, it is the recipient that gets to decide if something is sexual harassment. 2. We are going to continue to explore the line between flirting and sexual harassment as we continue with our activities today. Regardless, it is important to remember that when you have a crush on someone, sexually harassing them is probably the LAST thing you want to do, so picking up on their signals when you’re flirting is so important to figure out their boundaries and determine if they like you back. | *As students are unpacking the definition with the presenter, fill in the pieces of the sexual harassment definition on the board as follows:*  ***Harassment:***  ***-Unwanted behavior***  ***-Repeated***  ***1. Verbal***  ***2. Physical***  ***3. Written/Cyber***  *When “sexual in nature” is discussed, presenter should add the “sexual” to the harassment definition on the board:*  ***Sexual Harassment***  ***-Unwanted behavior***  ***-Repeated***  ***-Sexual in nature***  ***1. Verbal***  ***2. Physical***  ***3. Written/Cyber***  *Might be helpful to write these categories and the contents onto the board for a visual.* |