

TEACHABLE MOMENT FORMAT

ANSWERING QUESTIONS

1. Reassure the child that it is good to ask questions.
2. Find out what the child thinks/is really asking.
3. Decide what “messages” you want to give.
4. Answer simply, using medical terminology.
5. Encourage the child to give you feedback.

RESPONDING TO BEHAVIORS AND COMMENTS

1. Decide first if it is better to ignore the situation. If ignoring the situation is inappropriate, then continue with the following steps...
2. Name the behavior/comment to the child or children as you see or hear it; praise if appropriate.
3. Find out the meaning of the behavior/comment to the child or children.
4. Decide what “messages” you want to give.
5. Give the messages by responding simply.
6. Encourage the child or children to give you feedback.

*Adapted from Healthy Foundations: The Teacher’s Book, The Center for Sex Education, www.SexEdCenter.org, Planned Parenthood of Greater Northern New Jersey, 1993.