

What We Found

Practitioners are faced with an overwhelming lack of comprehensive, adaptable and accessible sexual health curricula for students with intellectual disabilities.

Implications For School Psychologists

As mental health professionals with interdisciplinary training in education, program development, and consultation, school psychologists are uniquely poised to reduce the elevated sexual risk experienced by students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (SWIDD). Practitioners must have access to comprehensive sexuality curricula.

Rosie Contino
Laurel Snider
Jill Talley
Marissa Simoni
Devaditra Talapatra

Contact: cfsp.research@du.edu

Department of Child, Family and School
Psychology

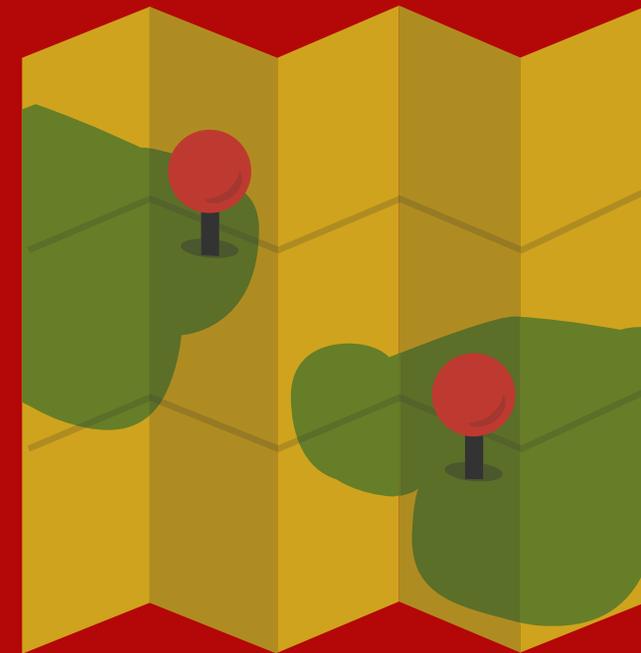
Morgridge College of Education

University of Denver



What's Out There?

Mapping Sexuality Education
for Students with Disabilities



The Importance of Sexuality Education

Individuals with Intellectual disabilities experience sexual abuse at a rate 2.2 times greater than the general population

2.5



These statistics are largely a result of **heightened vulnerability** due to the nature of their disability and the **lack of sexual information** provided to this group

HOWEVER Direct Educational Intervention is proven to...

- Increase Consent Capacity (Sexual Knowledge in general)
- Increase Sociosexual Skills
- Increase Self Esteem
- Decrease Vulnerability to Sexual Abuse

...across levels of cognitive capability!

Barriers to Sexual Health Education



Stigma and Beliefs

Society tends to incorrectly view individuals with IDD as either asexual or hypersexual; In the first case, they do not need sexual health education. In the second, caregivers may fear that sexual health education would make the problem worse.



"Other Health and Learning Goals

Many caregivers feel that sexual health needs are secondary to pressing health and social needs associated with a student's disability.



Caregiver Confidence

Caregivers and particularly parents report feeling unprepared to teach their student about sexual health. Additionally, many fear that sexual topics will be beyond their child's comprehension capabilities.

Trends in Current Sexuality Education Curriculums



Accessibility

Most are easy to access online, however few are free or cost effective, averaging at **\$205** per curriculum.



Efficacy

Almost no curricula have peer-reviewed studies confirming their efficacy. Few have assessments to record student learning.



Adaptability

Most curriculums include directions for adapting learning based on student need. Few include alternative modes to present information.



Adherence to National Standards

Curricula tend to include most but not all standards outlined by the NSHES. STDs, parenthood, and relationships tend to be the most overlooked.



Special Topics

Curricula rarely include special topics such as sexuality, gender fluidity, and porn. However, most curricula place an emphasis on consent.