

AIDS awareness for school kids

Many programmes around issues like AIDS, sex and abortion do not take into account the real life situations that young people face. Much AIDS education material has been criticised for presenting a narrow, moralistic approach which just switches young people off.

The package produced by the Macmillan Boleswa AIDS Awareness Programme takes a new approach.

The package includes 14 interesting and appealing story books on AIDS for students. The books are aimed at students from standard four to matric. A traditional African story-telling style is used to get the message across. There are also teachers' guides with ideas

The Macmillan Boleswa Aids Awareness Programme has produced a package of 14 story books on AIDS for school children from standard four to matric, as well as teachers' guides. You can get the package from Macmillan Boleswa, PO Box 32484, Braamfontein 2017, South Africa. Telephone: (011) 339 2935

on how to run AIDS programmes at school. The package gives teachers the chance to try out a creative teaching method aimed at drawing students in rather than pushing them away.

The stories use language, characters and situations that students can easily identify with. This will help them realise AIDS is something that can happen to anyone.

All the stories stress that AIDS is mainly a sexually-transmitted disease. If you are careless about your sex life and do not use condoms, it could happen to you - no matter who you are, where you live or how rich or poor you are.

They also describe how people respond when they learn about AIDS for the first time. Here are a few examples.

- "Only gays get AIDS."
- "If I really want him, I cannot ask him to wear a condom."
- "I cannot wear a condom because I won't feel anything."

However the characters in the stories eventually accept that AIDS does not discriminate.

The stories are realistic and do not scare the reader away. They give clear, simple and detailed information about AIDS and encourage students to get involved in the fight against the killer disease.

This package is a must for all primary and high schools. ☼



"I also didn't know enough about AIDS. That's why I'm here."

Graphic: Macmillan Boleswa Aids Awareness Package