A Family Homework Exercise: Sexually Transmitted Diseases

ALL FAMILY HOMEWORK EXERCISES ARE OPTIONAL.

Read this aloud together:

Three million, or one out of every four, American teenagers contract an STD each year. There are over 15 million new cases of STDs every year, counting adults, teens, children, and babies. There are things you can do to reduce the risks from these infections. Knowledge is the first step. Communication is the second step.

The first step:

Each of you try filling out The STD Worksheet, by yourself. Then compare and discuss your answers. If you need help with any questions, you will find some helpful phone numbers on the STD Reference Sheet, question 13. Call together, with one of you on each extension, if you have two phones. Or, if you have access to the Internet, see STD Reference Sheet, question 14. If you use the Internet, surf it together.

The second step:

Take turns explaining to one another what you think the “secret message” at the end of the STD Worksheet means.

Answer Key: The following are true: 1, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13 a, c, d, and f, 14 b, c and d, and g, 15 a, c, d, e, and f, 16 b, 17 c, d, e, f, g, and i.
Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) Worksheet

Directions: First, mark each statement T (True) or F (False). Then, if the statement is true, put the letter or punctuation mark that follows it into one of the blanks of the secret message at the end of this worksheet, starting with the first blank. If the answer is false, do not use the letter at the end of the sentence. If you are not sure of an answer, call one of the phone numbers on question 13 of the STD Reference Sheet for help.

1. _____ STD means the same thing as VD. (L)
2. _____ Only dirty people get STDs. (E)
3. _____ STDs have been around for many, many generations. (O)
4. _____ Most STDs are incurable ... you have them for life. (D)
5. _____ Usually only adults catch STDs. (J)
6. _____ You can have an STD and not get any symptoms. (V)
7. _____ Some STDs, like pubic lice, are annoying, but aren’t dangerous. (E)
8. _____ Some STDs are very dangerous; a few can cause permanent damage or kill a person. (I)
9. _____ You might not know you had an STD unless the doctor or your boyfriend or girlfriend or husband or wife told you. (S)
10. _____ Only people who have sex with a lot of people get STDs. (?)
11. _____ Once you get an STD, you can never get it again. (!)
12. _____ Sometimes the symptoms go away, but the person can still be infected. (A)
13. _____ STD’s include…
    _____a. Syphilis (B)
    _____b. Jock Itch (C)
    _____c. Gonorrhea (I)
    _____d. Chlamydia (G)
    _____e. Yeast (T)
    _____f. Genital Warts (R)
14. _____ Sometimes STDs can come from things besides sex, like…
   _____a. Toilet seats (H)
   _____b. Sharing unsterile needles for body piercing (E)
   _____c. Sharing unsterile needles to shoot drugs (S)
   _____d. Beds and clothes (P)
   _____e. Coughing (M)
   _____f. Doorknobs (W)

15. _____ The most common symptoms of STDs are…
   _____a. Sores (O)
   _____b. Blindness (U)
   _____c. Itching or burning (N)
   _____d. Warts or bumps on the genitals (S)
   _____e. Unusual discharge (I)
   _____f. Pain in the belly – the pelvic area (B)

16. _____ Untreated gonorrhea or Chlamydia can make a person…
   _____a. Look different (W)
   _____b. Infertile…unable to have a biological child (I)

17. _____ You can lower your chances of giving or getting an STD by…
   _____a. Being a nice person (O)
   _____b. Taking a bath or shower every day (E)
   _____c. Not having sex (L)
   _____d. Limiting the number of people you have sex with in your life (I)
   _____e. Only having sex with one other person who only has sex with you (T)
   _____f. Cuddling with clothes on, instead of having intercourse (Y)
   _____g. Getting regular, thorough STD check—ups (!)
   _____h. Only having sex with clean looking people (?)
   _____i. Using condoms or having your partner use them (!)

Secret Message:
__________________________
__________________________
__________________________

3 Ibid.