

FOCUS ON YOUTH

A Focus on Kids Intervention

BACKGROUND

Focus on Youth is a community-based program that gives youth the skills and knowledge they need to protect themselves from HIV and other STDs. The curriculum, founded on the Protection Motivation Theory, uses fun, interactive activities such as games, roleplays and discussions to convey prevention knowledge and skills. *Focus on Youth* targets African American youth 12 to 15 years of age and their parents in non-school settings. It is composed of eight youth sessions and one, 90-minute parent session. The curriculum is based on *Focus on Kids*, which has been identified by CDC's Prevention Research Synthesis program as a Best-Evidence Effective Behavioral Intervention. The original evaluation was conducted by Dr. Bonita Stanton and a team of researchers at the University of Maryland, Baltimore from 1992-2002.

INTERVENTION

Education, Training & Research Associates (ETR Associates) is pleased to announce, through a cooperative agreement with the CDC, an updated version of this proven evidence-based curriculum. While staying true to the core elements of the original project, this edition has increased its cultural, geographical and contextual relevance to reach African-American youth 12–15 years of age on a broader, national scale. Training will be made available for community agencies by mid to late 2007.

The *Focus on Youth* curriculum consists of eight, 100-minute sessions focusing on:

- Session 1: Trust Building and Group Cohesion
- Session 2: Risk and Values
- Session 3: Obtaining Information
- Session 4: Examining Consequences
- Session 5: Communication
- Session 6: Sexual Health and Showing You Care Without Having Sex
- Session 7: Attitudes and Skills for Sexual Health
- Session 8: Review and Community Project



These sessions are accompanied by one, 90-minute parent session which includes a 20-minute video. Stay tuned for more on this exciting and effective intervention for African-American Youth ages 12–15.

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