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The use of puppets to prevent sexual abuse among adolescences with learning disabilities

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Students with disabilities can develop relationships with other people they like. During adolescence, there are lots of different feelings one may have due to changes in the body. Students even ones with disabilities have these similar feelings. Students in Community Health Nursing clinical at the University of Scranton collaborated with the Children's Advocacy Center to

develop a joint project. The need for relationship awareness education for adolescent students with developmental delays had been identified (Murray, 2016). The main reason this project was developed was for the prevention of sexual abuse among adolescences with learning disabilities. University of Scranton senior nursing students developed skits regarding appropriate relationships. The nursing students went to several classrooms at local schools. The classroom contained adolescent students with learning disabilities. The nursing students used puppets to act out the skits. The puppet shows started a dialog with the adolescent students and the education became

very interactive. Middle school and high school students going through adolescence have many changes with their physical, emotional, and sexual health. Many learning support students have those same changes. Feeling about another person may develop. How do you develop a relationship with another person, how do you tell the other person how you feel? What is an appropriate relationship with another person? These are all issues that adolescents need to be aware of. The project started the dialog of appropriate relationships with others and also provided education on preventing sexual abuse with learning disabled adolescent students.

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