

QUESTION BOX

A question box is a way for students to submit anonymous questions. The questions are to be answered at a later date, by the teacher, out loud, for the entire class. Many teachers have found that putting a question box in the classroom is helpful, not just for sexual health class, but for all subjects. The question box gives the students a safe space to ask questions that otherwise may not be asked due to embarrassment, discomfort, lack of vocabulary or fear. It also gives the teacher time to find the answer and decide how they would like to word the answer. We have found that the questions students ask in the question box, compared to the questions they ask out loud in class, are more honest, serious and personal.

If a question box is not something you have tried in your class, we suggest putting one out specifically for questions related to sexual health. The box can remain out all year or at specific times. If you have invited SHORE Centre to conduct a presentation, having a question box out in the weeks leading up to our talk(s) will allow the class to begin thinking about the topics that will be discussed and give you, and us, an understanding of some of the topics your class has questions about. Some teachers will answer these questions themselves, others might leave some for us to answer when we visit your school, and others would like us to answer all the questions. This decision is completely up to you, as you know your class, and your comfort level, best.

When introducing the question box, you can mention the following:

- The box is for questions related to: (e.g. growing up, body changes, puberty, sexual health, birth control, pregnancy etc.)
- Students can submit questions into the box at any time, including at specified times when every student will be required to put a question on a piece of paper and submit it into the box – this makes it impossible for the students to know who submitted the question. (For the students who do not have a sexual health question create a question they can write down, e.g. what changes happen to everyone’s body during puberty?)
- All questions are anonymous – the entire class will hear the question and the answer to it, but no one will know who submitted the question