

# Curriculum Developer Talking Points

This resource is an attachment to the Arizona Health and Nutrition Curriculum Assessment Tool. These talking points can guide emails and correspondence with curriculum developers when asking for approval to modify their existing curriculum. The AZ Health Zone State Implementation Team is available for questions and/or additional assistance when creating emails to curriculum developers.

## Talking Points & Examples

- Introduce yourself and discuss how or why the curriculum attracted your attention, citing your need for use and how their curriculum would fill a gap in order to meet the needs of your target audience.

**Ex:** Hi my name is \_\_\_\_, and I am a SNAP-Ed nutrition educator in the state of Arizona. I have been facilitating nutrition education lessons for high school students and recently they have asked for gardening lessons to learn how to grow produce in the new garden that was built at their school.

- Discuss strengths of the curriculum or a particular aspect of the curriculum that you like.

**Ex:** Your curriculum \_\_\_\_ sounds like a great blend of nutrition education, physical activity, and gardening lessons that are geared towards teens. The curriculum I currently use does not incorporate all these aspects, which is what made your curriculum stand out to me when searching for new curricula for my high schoolers.

- Create an “ask” of the curriculum developer, so they clearly understand you would like their approval to make a modification to a lesson or the series of lessons.

**Ex:** Are any modifications to your curriculum allowable, and do you have specific guidance for facilitators who may want to adapt or modify the curriculum?

**Ex:** Do you allow facilitators to modify the language or word choice in lessons to meet the specific needs of program participants or programmatic principles?

**Ex:** Can lessons of a series be taught as stand alone, or can a series be taught omitting a specific lesson that may not align with programmatic principles?

**Ex:** Are learning activities within a lesson flexible for the facilitator to change, in order to make it more relevant to their specific communities? Note: You may cite a cultural, regional, or community preference and why adapting or choosing a different activity may be more effective.

- Discuss the aspect of the curriculum that does not align with the Language of Health or how incorporating a trauma-informed approach could strengthen the lesson or align with AZ Health Zone’s guiding principles. You can include a strategy from the Language of Health and attach the guide to your email for supporting evidence.

**Ex:** At AZ Health Zone (SNAP-Ed in Arizona), we incorporate trauma-informed approaches and inclusive messaging using the Language of Health (see attachment) into the delivery of our lessons and communicating with our participants. I noticed lesson three is titled “Gardening: Nature’s Best Work-Out” and includes information about how to burn calories, lose weight, and has an activity on how to calculate BMI. The Language of Health suggests avoiding messages that promote weight-focused reasons to be active and focus on weight loss.

**Ex:** Your \_\_\_ curriculum was developed for a growing region and climate that is much different from Phoenix, Arizona. Would it be possible to remove the “Forage Through the Forest” activity in lesson six, and include an activity related to native plants we can find in our desert region?

- Thank the curriculum developer for their time to read your email and consider your request, and offer a way they can contact you if they would like to follow up or discuss your questions further.
- If you do not receive a response from the curriculum developer, consider following up with them after two weeks.

**Ex:** Hi my name is \_\_\_ and I am a SNAP-Ed Nutrition Educator with AZ Health Zone (Arizona’s SNAP-Ed Program). I am following up with you regarding my previous email. I would like to use your \_\_\_ curriculum in my community, and am wondering if I might be able to modify part of a lesson to meet my program’s requirements. Thank you for your time and consideration.