

Talking with Children and Teens about Pornography

By talking with your children pro-actively about sex, sexual development, and pornography, you can share accurate information and communicate your values and cultural beliefs.

How you respond to your child about pornography can have a greater impact on the child than the pornography itself. If you get angry or freak out, it may send a message of shame and determine whether or not your child feels comfortable asking you questions in the future about pornography, sex and sexual development. Talk to both your sons and daughters.

Some general talking points about porn:

- Sex is a loving, enjoyable act between two consenting adults.
- Touching your own private parts feels good and can be fun, but it's done in private and not shared with others.
- Pornography is when actors mimic acts of sex in front of cameras to cause sexual excitement.
- The images in pornography are sometimes what kids come to believe sex is really like and it can feel scary.
- Pornography can come in printed images in magazines or in videos or movies on line.
- Images of pornography can be violent and painful and can make kids feel scared.
- You will probably be exposed to pornography by your friends, online, on the school bus etc.
- Once you look at pornography a few times, it may make you want to look at it more - for teens, discuss the possible addictive nature like wanting more than 1 or 2 cookies.
- If anyone every shows you pornography and you feel excited by it or uncomfortable by it, it's okay to talk about it with an adult you feel safe with and trust.
- You will never be in trouble if you talk about pornography with an adult.
- Pornography is sometimes used by teens or adults to groom kids, which means to get them to be your friend. If someone does this, they are breaking body-safety rules and it's okay to talk with an adult you trust.
- I am always available to talk about any questions you have about sex/ pornography.
- Brainstorm other safe people your child can talk with.
- It's natural to be interested in sex but pornography can be violent and scary which is not what sex is about.

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