



EDUCATEEMPOWERKIDS

WHAT IS PORNOGRAPHY?

AGES 8-11



BACKGROUND

Parents, your children are constantly surrounded by sexualized messages and images. Many of them are teaching your child lessons about sexuality and interactions between people that are misleading, incomplete and unhealthy. Real emotional intimacy is rarely portrayed. It is so important for you to talk to your children about the messages they see every day so that you can be their first, best source of information. Set aside time to talk with your child and make it a priority. It is vital that you share your personal or family standards about pornography in the course of this lesson. This is just one of many, many discussions you should have with your child, and you may even feel the need to break this lesson into several to make sure you cover everything. (See related discussions below.)

At this young age, it is especially important that children develop a healthy sense of their own bodily integrity. As such, arbitrary rules regarding nudity such as “It is always bad to be naked” can cause unintentional damage by promoting an underlying sense of shame and even loathing.

PREPARATION

- Review the objective of the lesson and understand why it is important to talk to your child about it.
- Read over the lesson first and try to anticipate what your child is ready for and what questions your child might have.
- Familiarize yourself with the glossary terms.

OBJECTIVE

- Define pornography and its uses.
- Explain that it is sometimes used to aid in the sexual abuse of children. (see glossary)
- Clarify that it is not romantic or about love.
- Describe how it is addictive.
- Formulate a plan for what to do if your child sees pornography

WHAT IS PORNOGRAPHY?

The portrayal of explicit sexual content for the purpose or intent of causing sexual arousal. It can be created in a variety of media contexts, including videos, photos, animation, books, and magazines.

WHY IS IT DANGEROUS?

Pornography is dangerous for children because it doesn't represent real love or intimacy. It objectifies women and men. It glorifies violence against women. It is sometimes used to aid in the sexual abuse of children. It is as addictive as a street drug. It damages a child's undeveloped brain.

POINTS TO MAKE

- No one should make you look at pictures or movies that make you feel uncomfortable
- Pornography is sometimes used by predators to groom children (see glossary)
- Make sure your child knows where he or she is most likely to be exposed (on the bus, at a friend's house, on any internet enabled device)
- Formulate a plan

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CHILD

- Is curiosity about sex normal? (It is important to assure your child that curiosity about bodies and sex is completely normal.)
- What is respect? (See glossary)
- How can we be respectful of other's bodies?
- Have you ever seen pornography?
- What would you do if you did? (Form a plan that includes: look away, find and tell a trusted adult, tell a parent)
- Should we take pictures of others or ourselves when we are not fully dressed?

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR CHILD IS EXPOSED TO PORN?

THE BEST STRATEGY FOR DEALING WITH PORN EXPOSURE

- 🗨️ **NAME IT**
Identify porn when you see it.
- 🗨️ **GET AWAY FROM IT**
Remove yourself from the situation.
- 🗨️ **TELL PARENTS**
Report images you've seen to a parent immediately.
- 🗨️ **DISCUSS FEELINGS**
How did the image make you feel? You are not at fault.
- 🗨️ **DECONSTRUCT IMAGES TOGETHER**
Porn is a counterfeit representation of sex portrayed by actors.
- 🗨️ **PREVENT FURTHER EXPOSURE**
Discuss ways to avoid seeing pornography in the future.

ACTIVITY

Try role-playing using a friend with a mobile device as an example and talk about how your child should react to seeing a pornographic image.

FOLLOWING UP

- Each time your child is not in your care and could be exposed, it is a good idea to remind them of ways to protect and prepare themselves.
- Ensure that appropriate filters are in place on all internet-enabled devices and that all adult content is appropriately contained both on your home devices and in homes they regularly frequent.
- This will not be a one-time discussion; you'll want to reiterate these principles continuously. This lesson will likely lead to other valuable discussions like anatomy, relationships, good touch/bad touch and predators, all of which can be found in ***30 Days of Sex Talks, Empowering Your Child with Knowledge of Sexual Intimacy*** (available on Amazon.com).

RELATED DISCUSSIONS

(which can also be found in 30 Days of Sex Talks)

Public

Private

Respecting Others

Where do Babies Come From?

Computers and the Internet

GLOSSARY TERMS

Appropriate: Suitable, proper, or fitting for a particular purpose, person, or circumstance.

Explicit: Content that contains sexual material that may be considered offensive or overtly graphic.

Groom: To prepare or train someone for a particular purpose or activity. In the case of sexual predators, it is any willful action made by the offender to prepare the victim and/or victim's support network that allows for easier sex offending.

Nudity/Naked: The state of not wearing any clothing.

Predator: A predator is technically an organism or being that hunts and then feeds on their prey. A sexual predator is someone who seeks to obtain sexual contact through "hunting." The term is often used to describe the deceptive and coercive methods used by people who commit sex crimes where there is a victim, such as rape or child abuse.

Respect: A feeling or understanding that someone or something is important and should be treated in an appropriate way.

Sexual Abuse: The improper sexual usage or treatment of another person or entity, often to unfairly gain power or another benefit in the relationship.

Shame: The painful feeling arising from the consciousness of something dishonorable, improper, ridiculous, etc., done by oneself or another.