

No Need To Opt Out Now!

It COULD be just a coincidence. It COULD also be Divine intervention, though. For many parents now sequestered with their kids at home because of coronavirus, this is a chance to point their child's sex education toward family values and circumvent the indoctrination the state of CA wanted to impose.

With this unexpected opportunity there are questions such as,

What are the values we want to teach about sex? How do we express them effectively? In case you have forgotten what it was like to be a teen, a "just don't do it" lecture isn't typically a deterrent to sexual activity. Frankly, neither is "God said so." Even if He did.

Let me suggest there are a few ways to dip your toes in the water. First, be age-appropriate. Your preschooler and kindergartner do not need to be burdened with all the ways humans interact sexually, but there is no reason not to talk about how their private parts are specially made for special purpose. Second, and this is important, you want your kids to look forward to great sex with an uninfected lifetime partner -- the same way they look forward to getting a driver's license. In fact, those parallels are unbelievably helpful.

Any conversation about what skills and character qualities someone needs to be a good driver can lead to an Awesome Sex Talk. Not just "how to operate the machinery," but how will YOUR driving affect other people? For instance, On The Road: *what kind of driving behaviors are smart, considerate and safe?* Answers: using turn signals, pulling into the intersection while waiting to turn left, only moving into the fast lane to pass, etc. And what about With Other Family Members: *what kind of behaviors make sharing the car more enjoyable?* Answers: making sure there's a full tank of gas before coming home, emptying out the trash, cleaning the windshield, etc.

How is that like a Sex Talk? The biology of sex is the "how to operate the machinery." But there's a lot more in the way sexual behavior and personal choices affect others! For instance, *how would adolescent sexual activity impact, say, the parents of teens who become pregnant? Their siblings, teammates, youth groups, etc.?*

Covid19 Birth Spike Expected

With so many people at home because of the pandemic, means there will likely be many announcements of new babies due around Christmas and New Year's.

If you are a knitter, a crafter or a creative, don't waste your quarantine! Now is a great time to start making homemade Christmas gifts, baby gifts, etc.! And with the extra time to create, please consider making more than one to donate to your local pregnancy center.



Or, the future partners of a teen parent? And will the images and memories of past sexual encounters **with you** impede your partner's openness or ability to trust and bond (since adolescent sexual activity is rarely associated with long-term commitments)?

After looking at all those potential factors, all you have to do is ask the question, *Then what behaviors would be smart, considerate and safe?*

Just keep in mind that TELLING your child the correct answer does not mean they have LEARNED the correct answer. If you really want a lesson to stick, provide an environment where your child can figure it out themselves and demonstrate what they learned.

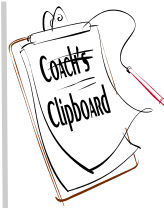
OK, Now What?

What does the future hold for **Positively Waiting** in light of the pandemic, quarantine and economy? Honestly, we don't know. But neither does anyone else.

We **want** to continue reaching adolescents and their parents with practical tools that help to produce honorable and healthy young adults. We are developing creative ways to help *temporarily* homeschooling parents discuss sexual topics, with digital content and/or podcasts dealing with specific concepts. There are lots of possibilities!

With unemployment scares, economic downturns and social distancing, we HOPE there will be a need for our non-profit on the other side, and the means to continue. With that said, if you are **able** to help us financially, we would really appreciate it!!

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COACH'S CORNER

This month's coaching tip: **Always answer the question you're being asked — but make sure you know what it is!**

This tip comes from my friend, Kathy Flores. Sometimes adults answer too much and sometimes too little, based on what WE would mean if WE were asking the question. For instance, Kathy talks about a mom who was asked, *Why are condoms flavored?* There are two WRONG responses.

The first would be a detailed explanation of oral sex. Don't laugh! It's not uncommon for an adult to cover their own discomfort with a topic by giving lots of information — as if it were the verbal portion of an exam.

The second would be to brush it off, or say something like, "We don't talk about things like that!" If your kid is curious about something, they will just move on to another source of information.

The right balance isn't as hard as you think.

1. **Start by asking a question** such as, *Where did you hear about that?* Or *What have you already heard?* Even *Where should I start?* will give you more information about what your child **really** wants to know.
2. **Present the concept in a few words, then check our connection.** "*Was that the answer you were expecting?*" or, "*what got you thinking about this?*" will help you find your way to the rest of the discussion.
3. If you can't answer — you don't know the right response, you just arrived at grandma's, there are little ears listening, whatever! — make a commitment to do it at a specific point, and **keep your promise**. **This is critical to show your child you WANT to be their first best source for information.**

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