

# Too much, too young

Exposing primary school  
sex education materials



**WARNING:**

This booklet contains explicit  
material not suitable for children.

WE HAVE CENSORED SOME OF THE IMAGES IN THIS BOOKLET



# Introduction

There are repeated calls for sex education to be made mandatory for all primary schools. This booklet uncovers explicit resources already recommended for primary-aged children by local councils. If sex education is forced on primary schools by a change in the law, we expect the use of these resources to become more widespread.

At a time when there is growing alarm at the sexualisation of childhood, using sexually explicit resources in schools can surely only make things much worse. If sex education is made compulsory for primary schools, the publications highlighted in this report are the kind of materials that will be used with children as young as five. A national curriculum for sex education would see control taken out of the hands of schools and centralised in the hands of those who advocate the use of material which most parents would find unacceptable.

The National Curriculum for Science includes basic biology, such as life cycles and human reproduction. This has been non-controversial. It does not include sex education, which has been treated separately since 1993. All schools are required to have a policy on sex education. For primary schools, this policy can be that they do not cover sex education topics – sex education is entirely discretionary at primary school level. (In science lessons pupils would simply be required to learn about human life cycles.) Secondary schools are required to cover some core aspects of sex education, but under the current system school head teachers and governors have control over the way they do it and the materials they use. Decisions on controversial matters are therefore made at school

level by governors and head teachers.

Despite this well established position, the Government is under huge pressure from campaigning groups to force all primary schools to teach sex education. The Sex Education Forum, a body which has produced a resource list including several of the explicit publications in this report, “believes that all children and young people have the right” to sex and relationships education.<sup>1</sup> FPA (formerly the Family Planning Association) is demanding that “all children and young people” receive sex education “at school as a statutory curriculum subject”.<sup>2</sup> Simon Blake, national director of sexual health charity Brook, has said that it is “vital that sex and relationships education (SRE) becomes compulsory in all schools”.<sup>3</sup>

In June 2010, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence produced draft guidance for schools recommending that children as young as five should be given sex and relationships education.<sup>4</sup> The Teenage Pregnancy Independent Advisory Group has consistently pressed for statutory Personal, Social, Health and Economic education (PSHE) at all key stages. A key component of PSHE is sex education. In a Parliamentary Briefing in September 2009 it encouraged politicians of all parties to: “Actively support upcoming legislation to make Personal, Social, Health and Economic education statutory (including SRE)”.<sup>5</sup>

Pressure also comes from the Labour Party. Before the General Election, the previous Government made its stance clear when it proposed as part of its Children, Schools and Families Bill to introduce sex education topics into the National Curriculum and guidance for primary schools. This would have led to schools teaching pupils about contraception and civil partnerships from the age of seven. In opposition, the Labour Party sought to amend the Academies Bill in July this year. The Party’s amendment would have made PSHE mandatory in all academies, including academy primaries. The Party’s spokesman, Diana Johnson MP, said “all schools” should teach the subject.<sup>6</sup>

At present primary schools do not have to teach sex education or PSHE and so have considerable freedom. Whether they decide to teach sex education or not, primary schools must simply make their policy available to parents.<sup>7</sup> Thanks to the good judgement of teachers we believe the most explicit materials are not being used widely. Perhaps this is why campaigners want sex education centralised – they are not getting what they want when decisions are left to schools. For them, sex education is not explicit enough and does not start early enough. Use of the publications highlighted in this report is not nearly as widespread as the ‘experts’ would like it to be.

Making sex education compulsory for schools would mean passing overall control from schools to the Government. It would be centralising, bureaucratic and would inevitably lead to the sex education industry which promotes explicit materials having much greater influence. Given that officials in local authorities are promoting explicit material for the youngest of school children, surely control of sex education should remain firmly in the hands of parents and school governors.

The coalition Government recently published a White Paper setting out its education policy. This White Paper promises “an internal review to determine how we can support schools to improve the quality of all PSHE teaching”.<sup>8</sup>

*The White Paper fails to rule out forcing primary schools to teach sex education.* Before the General Election the Liberal Democrats said they “unreservedly” supported mandatory sex education in primary schools.<sup>9</sup> The Conservatives said they were not opposed in principle as long as it is “taught appropriately” and schools have “flexibility” in teaching it.<sup>10</sup>

*Perhaps this is why campaigners want sex education centralised – they are not getting what they want when decisions are left to schools.*

Under questioning in July 2010 about his plans for the curriculum, Education Secretary Michael Gove told the Commons:

*Today's sex education is quite unlike anything parents had at school.*

“I agree that it is important that when sex and relationship education is reformed – as it will be – we go for the maximum consensus across the House, and that we do so in a way that ensures that as many schools as possible buy into our belief that we should have a 21st-century curriculum that reflects a modern understanding of sex and relationships.”<sup>11</sup>

Any reasonable parent reading this publication will see that these resources are simply not suitable for primary-aged children and that today's sex education is quite unlike anything they had at school. Although the right of parents to withdraw their children from sex education<sup>12</sup> is very likely to remain in place, no child should be exposed to materials of this nature.

Starting on **page 25** of this report we have included practical tips for how parents can find out what their child's school is teaching and how anyone can contact their MP about this issue.

The current approach to sex education, which demands ever more explicit sex education at ever younger ages, has wasted hundreds of millions of taxpayers' money and comprehensively failed to reduce teenage pregnancy and abortion rates. The Labour Government showered £300 million on its Teenage Pregnancy Strategy, which expert economist Professor David Paton has called “absolutely disastrous”.<sup>13</sup>

It is the coalition Government's overall policy that the National Curriculum should be slimmed down to core subjects. This is not consistent with making sex education a statutory part of the curriculum for the first time.

In November 2010 Government adviser Tim Oates (Head of

Research at the Cambridge Assessment exam board) warned that in recent years pressure groups had been given too much influence over lessons. He argued that organisations often clamoured to “ensure that subject content which reflects their interest is included in the ‘core’ content of the National Curriculum – leading to a lack of clarity as to what should legitimately be included, or not included.”<sup>14</sup> Indeed, the new White Paper itself says the National Curriculum “must not become a vehicle for imposing passing political fads on our children”<sup>15</sup>

The law requires the Secretary of State to “issue guidance designed to secure that when sex education is given to registered pupils...they are protected from teaching and materials which are inappropriate having regard to the age and the religious and cultural background of the pupils concerned”.<sup>16</sup> But the current guidance issued by the previous Government in 2000 is clearly failing to protect children. It is weak and too easy to evade.

Ministers should reject attempts to force all primary schools to teach sex education and the Government must introduce further safeguards to stop local councils promoting explicit and inappropriate resources.

Parents don’t want their children to be exposed to material which sexualises them. Rather than promoting these explicit materials through centralised sex education, the Government should be stopping them being used.

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# Mummy Laid An Egg

*Babette Cole*

Recommended  
for **Primary** by:



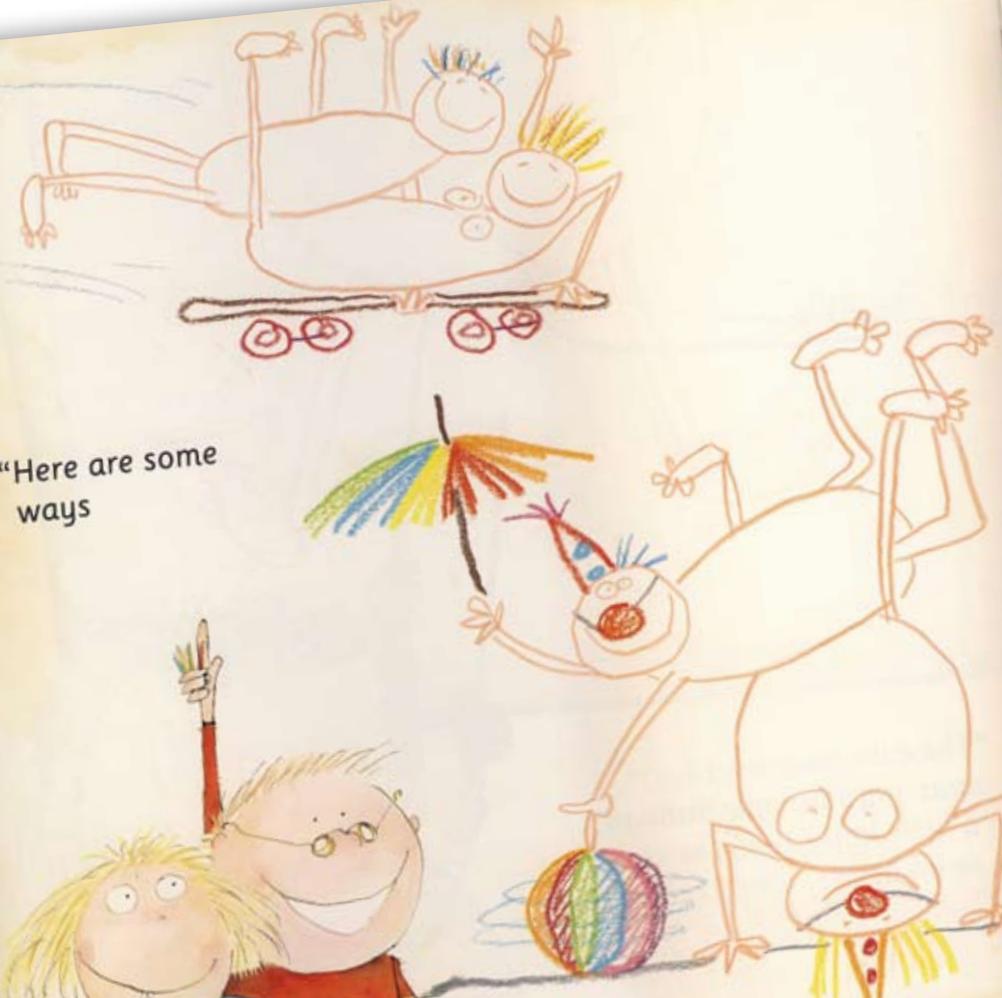
Recommended  
for **5-7 years** by:

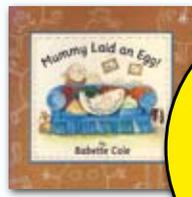


Recommended  
for **8-9 years** by:



"Here are some  
ways





RECOMMENDED  
**5+ years**

Recommended  
for 9-11 years by:



Recommended  
by:



Hampshire  
County Council



# How Did I Begin?

*Mick Manning and Brita Granström*



RECOMMENDED  
**5+ years**

Recommended  
for **Primary** by:



Recommended  
for **5-7 years** by:



Recommended  
for **5-11 years** by:



Recommended  
for **7-11 years** by:



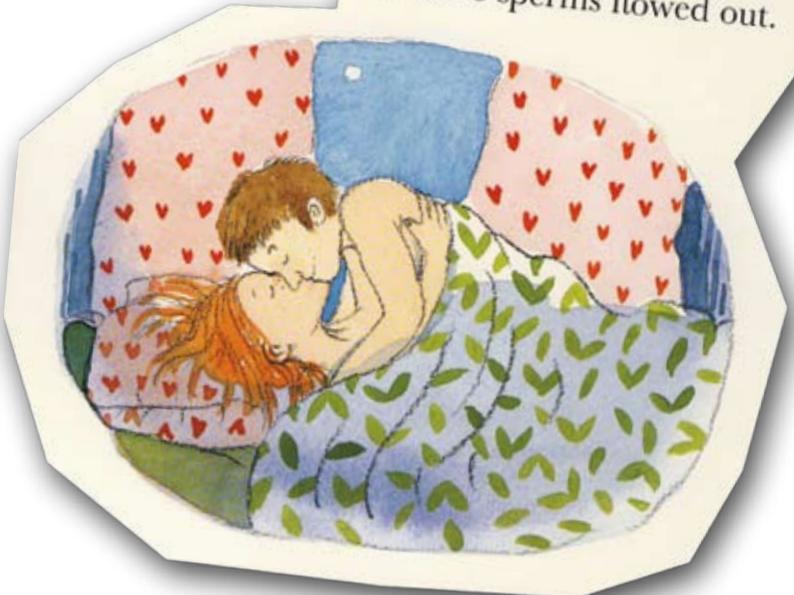
Recommended  
for **9-10 years** by:



Recommended  
by:



As they cuddled, your  
dad's penis moved gently  
inside your mum's vagina  
and the sperms flowed out.



# Where Did I Come From?

Peter Mayle



RECOMMENDED

**7+ years**

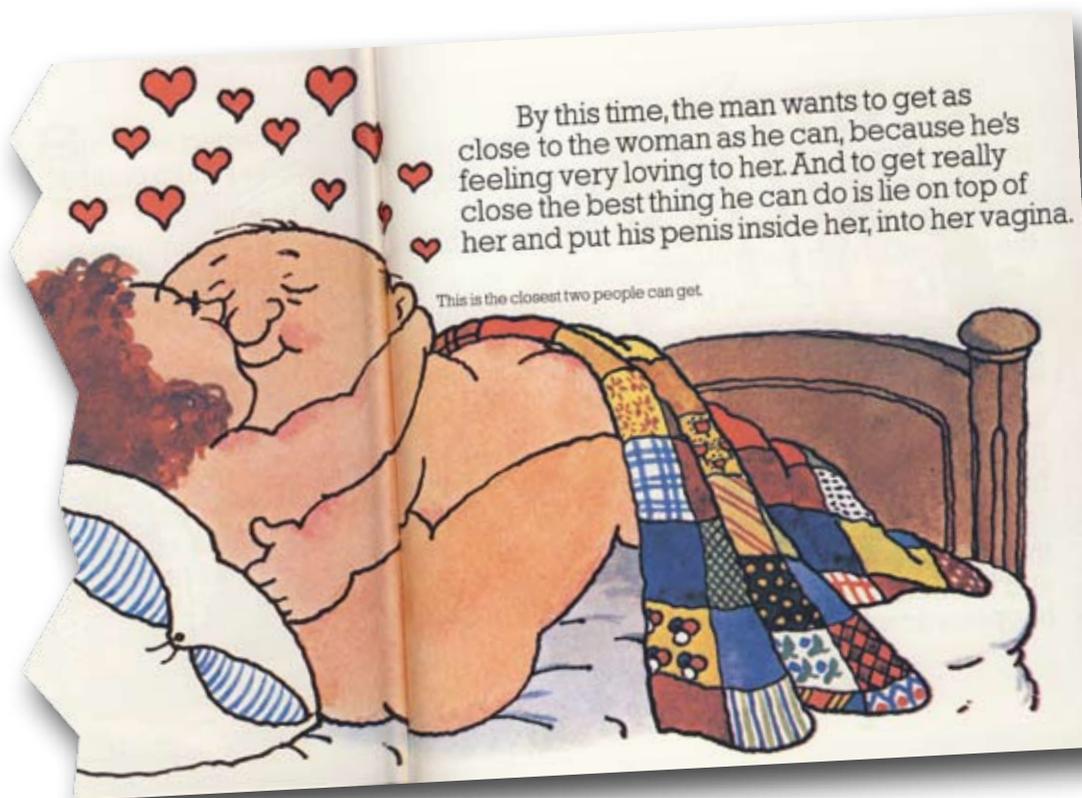
Recommended  
for 7-11 years by:



Recommended  
by:



Hampshire  
County Council



Continued...

## Where Did I Come From? (Continued)



see what the difference

First of all, you'll see that the man has a flat chest. But the woman has two round bumps on her chest.

These bumps have a lot of names. Some people call them the bosom (which you say like this: boozum). Other people call them titties, or boobs. (Don't ask us why.)



RECOMMENDED  
**7+ years**

the woman loving each other.

It's a difficult feeling to describe, but if you can imagine a gentle tingly sort of tickle that starts in your stomach and spreads all over, that will give you some idea of what it's like.

And as you know, when you're feeling tickly you wriggle about a bit. It's just the same here, except it's a special kind of wriggling.

It's easier to understand when you realize that the parts that tickle most are the man's penis and the woman's vagina. So most of the wriggling happens down there.



Making love is like skipping. You can't do it all day long.

# Primary School Sex and Relationships Education Pack

Recommended for **Primary** by:



## What is it called?

Give children the definition of certain sex-related words and ask them to work out what the words are. You could do this by using the definitions in the glossary of key terms on page 101. You could read them out to the class or write them on to card for small groups to discuss. Discuss with the children any other words they have heard for the same thing. Alternatively you might use diagrams of body parts and ask children about what each of the parts are called. This can be done by using the worksheets on pages 33 to 37. Also discuss what the children know about each of the body parts.

## Match up card game

Use the definitions of key terms in the 'Glossary' on page 101 to make a card game. Put the keywords on one set of cards and the definitions on another set. You can use all the words listed or select which you feel are most appropriate. Children can then play the card game in small groups matching up the words with the definitions. Ask the children about any words they do not understand or any questions they have and discuss these with them. Small groups of children could also use information books and leaflets to make their own card games to try out on other groups.

Recommended for **5-11 years** by:



Recommended for **Primary-14 years** by:



## Anal intercourse

**Sexual intercourse** where a man puts his penis into another person's anus.

## Anus

The hole at the end of the back passage. When you go to the toilet faeces come out of this hole.

## Bisexual

Someone who is sexually attracted to, and has **sexual relationships** with, both men and women.

## Clitoris

The most sensitive part of a female's **genitals**. It is above the opening to the **vagina** and is about the size of a pea. The clitoris produces feelings of pleasure and excitement when rubbed and becomes stiffer. This is what girls and women do when they **masturbate**.



RECOMMENDED  
**5+ years**

### **Erection**

When a boy's or man's **penis** becomes hard and upright.

### **Homophobia**

Fear of, and prejudice towards, people who are **homosexual**.

### **Homosexual**

Someone who is sexually attracted to, and has **sexual relationships** with, people of the same sex. Homosexual men are often called **gay** men. Homosexual women are often called **lesbians**.

### **Incest**

**Sexual intercourse** between close family members such as a father and daughter, mother and son, brother and sister or uncle and niece. Incest is against the law.

### **Lesbian**

A woman who is sexually attracted to, and has **sexual relationships** with, other women.

### **Masturbation**

When people get sexually excited by rubbing their own (or partner's) **genitals**. Boys and men rub their **penis** with their hands, sometimes until they **ejaculate**. Girls and women use their fingers to rub their **clitoris**, sometimes until they have an **orgasm**. A more detailed explanation of masturbation is given on page 71.

### **Oral sex**

Using the mouth and tongue to lick, kiss or suck a partner's **genitals**. Oral sex on a man involves his **penis**. Oral sex on a woman involves her **clitoris**.

### **Orgasm**

The feelings of pleasure at the peak of sexual excitement. People usually orgasm by having **sexual intercourse** with someone or **masturbating**.

### **Prostitute**

A person who is paid money, or in other ways, to have sex with someone else.

# Sex and Relationship Education

## BBC Active

RECOMMENDED  
**7+ years**

The BBC recommends these materials for 9-11 year-olds.

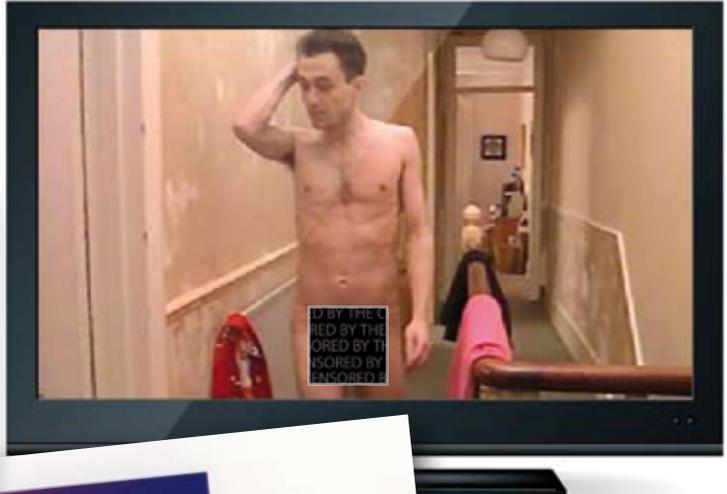
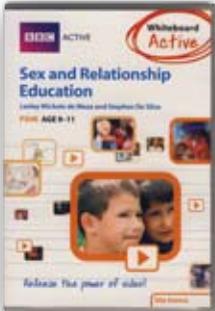
Recommended for **Primary** by:



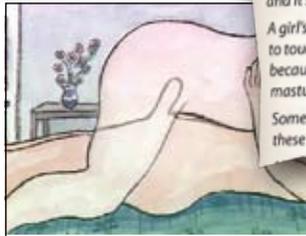
Recommended for **7-11 years** by:



Recommended for **9-11 years** by:



More video stills:



A boy's penis is very sensitive to touch. Sometimes he may want to touch it and massage it. That's called masturbation and it's quite natural.

A girl's genitals, especially the clitoris, are also very sensitive to touch. A girl may want to touch and stroke her genitals because it feels good. Just like the boys, this is called masturbation and it's quite natural.

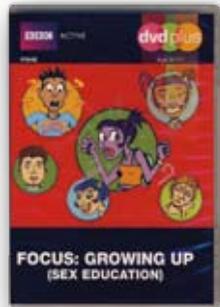
Sometimes, when people love each other they want to share these special touches.

# Focus: Growing Up

BBC Active

RECOMMENDED  
**7+ years**

The BBC recommends these materials for 9-11 year-olds.

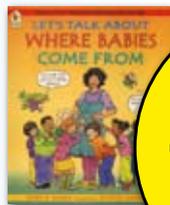


## More video stills:



# Let's Talk About Where Babies Come From

*Robie H. Harris*



RECOMMENDED  
**7+ years**

Recommended for **Primary** by:



Recommended for **7-11 years** by:



Recommended for **7+ years** by:



Recommended for **8-12 years** by:



Recommended for **12-13 years** by:

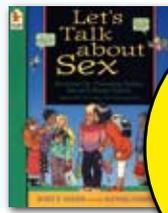


Recommended by:



# Let's Talk About Sex

Robie H. Harris



RECOMMENDED  
**7+ years**

Recommended  
for **7-14 years** by:



Recommended  
for **10-14 years** by:



SWINDON  
BOROUGH COUNCIL



Healthy Schools  
CORNWALL

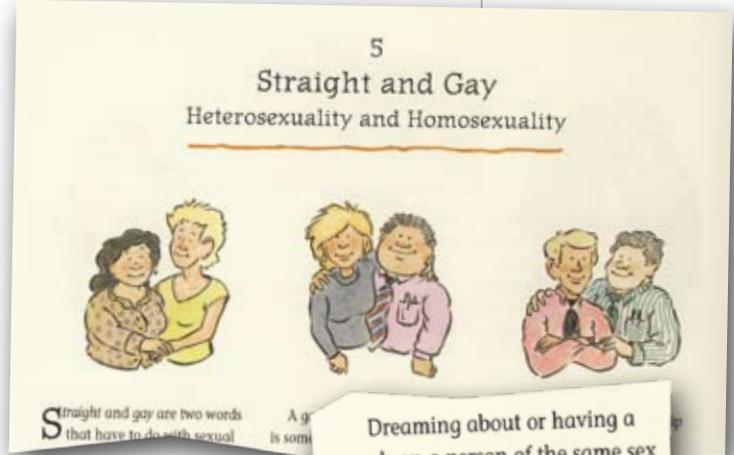
Recommended  
for **10+ years** by:



Recommended  
for **12-13 years** by:



Recommended  
by:



Sometimes, as children are growing up, boys become curious about other boys and girls become curious about other girls. They may look at and even touch each other's bodies. This is a normal kind of exploring and does not have anything to do with whether a girl or a boy is or will be heterosexual or homosexual.

Dreaming about or having a crush on a person of the same sex also does not necessarily mean that a girl or a boy is or will be homosexual.

Some people disapprove of gay men and lesbian women. Some even hate homosexuals just because they are homosexual. People may feel this way because they think homosexuals are different from them or that gay relationships are wrong. Usually these people know little or nothing about homosexuals, and their views are often based on fears or misinformation, not on facts. People are often afraid of things they know little or nothing about.

Some people...

# All About Us: Living and Growing

## Channel 4

Recommended  
for **Primary** by:



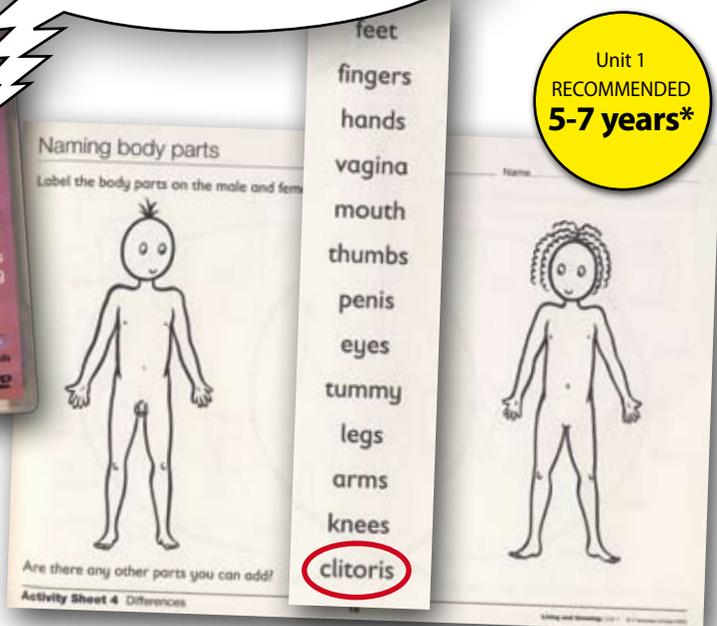
Unit 1  
RECOMMENDED  
**5-7 years\***

"All females have two special parts. They have a clitoris which feels like a small bump, and doesn't stick out much."

"It grows hard now and then – it's a nice feeling".

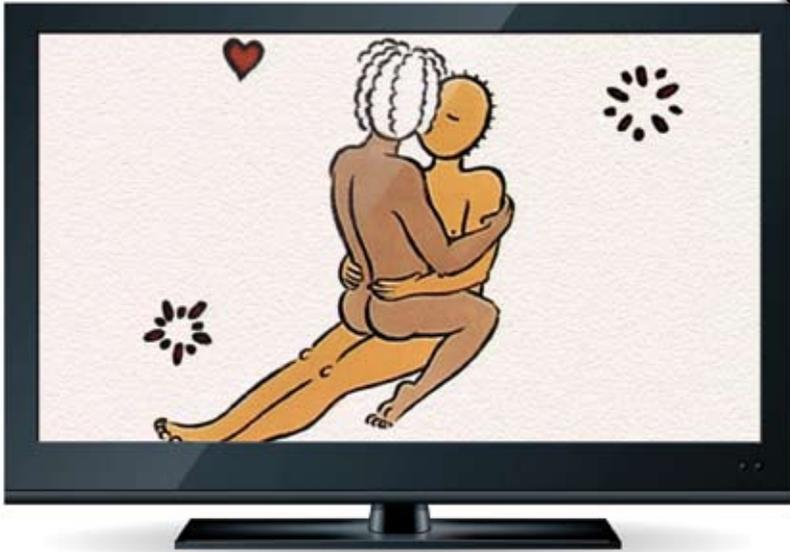


Unit 1  
RECOMMENDED  
**5-7 years\***



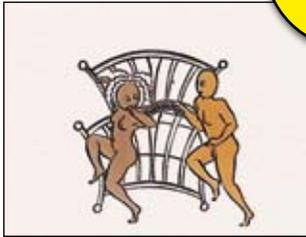


RECOMMENDED  
**Primary  
 Schools**



More video stills:

Unit 2  
 RECOMMENDED  
**7-9 years\***



Unit 3  
 RECOMMENDED  
**9-11 years\***

\* **Milton Keynes Council** recommends Unit 1 for children aged 8-9 and Units 2 and 3 for 9-10 year-olds. **Sheffield City Council** suggests using Unit 1 with children aged 5-7 and using Units 2 and 3 with 7-11 year-olds. **All other Councils and Authorities** follow the materials guidelines for ages (stated in the yellow circles).

# What's Happening To Me? (Boys)

Alex Frith



RECOMMENDED  
**7+ years**

Recommended  
for 7-11 years by:



Recommended  
for 8-12 years\* by:



\* Recommended for parents to use with their children.

Recommended  
for 9-10 years by:



This new phase of life is called puberty, and it's mostly to do with sex. Sex is the way people make babies. Sex

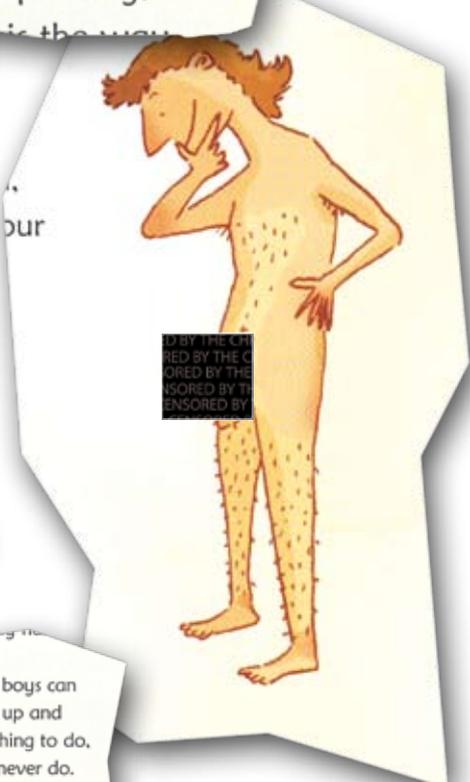
### The messy truth

For a baby to start, a sperm from a man's body has to meet and join together with an ovum (egg) in a woman's body. This can happen when a woman and a man have sex. Here's how it works.

First, the man and woman get ready for sex, usually by kissing and cuddling each other – often called foreplay. This helps make the man's penis grow hard and stick up and away from his body. It may also make the woman's vagina release some slippery fluid.

The vagina is a tube inside a woman's body with its opening between her legs. When it is wet, the man's hard penis can fit inside it.

Sperm



Once their bodies have started producing semen, boys can make themselves ejaculate by rubbing their penis up and down. This is called masturbation. It's a natural thing to do, and some boys do it quite often and some boys never do. The feeling you get when semen squirts out is called an orgasm (also called "coming"), and it happens when the muscles in your penis contract. Sometimes this makes the semen squirt out quite far; other times it just oozes out.

# What's Happening To Me? (Girls)

*Susan Meredith*



RECOMMENDED

**8+ years**

Recommended  
for **8-12\*** years by:



Recommended  
for **9-10** years by:



\* Recommended for parents to use with their children.

As you get older, it's only natural to start feeling sexually attracted to other people. You might even fantasize about someone you fancy. But don't worry – that's a safe way of exploring your emotions. And touching your genitals because it feels good (called masturbation) is natural too. Masturbating might end in an orgasm (often called "coming") – this is a fluttery, shuddery feeling in your genitals that can make your whole body feel relaxed.

The age when people start dating varies...

For a man's penis to fit inside a woman's vagina during sex, it first has to swell, get hard and point upwards. This is called an erection and it happens when extra blood flows into the penis.



# Tips for action for parents

## **1. View the materials**

The first step is to find out what materials and schemes of work your child's school is using.

We would strongly recommend that you approach the school and ask to see the materials which they use. Most schools are willing to provide the information. If for some reason they are not, you can make a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

When looking at the materials, take time to look through them in detail. What values do they promote? Are there role plays or group activities which you would not want your child taking part in? Pay particular attention to DVDs they could be shown. There may be visual images which are obviously unsuitable.

Find out who is going to take the lessons. Will it be their teacher or someone else? If it is not the teacher, find out who and which body they represent. Frequently outside groups, such as health authorities, are working in schools. So often these groups can lack judgement about what is appropriate.

## **2. Meet with the head teacher**

If you have concerns about what your child will be taught you can raise these with the head teacher of the school. You can refer to Section 403 of the Education Act 1996, which rules out inappropriate materials and seeks to ensure that pupils: "learn the nature of marriage and its importance for family life."

Meeting face to face is a tremendously useful way to convey your views. Here are some top tips:

- Always remember to be gentle and polite, but firm.
- Be prepared before you go. Have a few simple points in your mind that you want to put to them. You can write the points down (or better still, type them up) and hand the points to them at the end of the meeting.

### **3. Withdrawing your child**

If you have tried raising your concerns with the school but find that you cannot reach an acceptable conclusion as to how sex education is taught, then it may be now that you decide to withdraw your child from sex education lessons.

Children can be withdrawn from all parts of sex education. (This will not include science lessons on human life cycles, which are part of the current primary National Curriculum.) See Section 405 of the Education Act 1996.

If you do decide to go ahead with this your child's school ought to have systems in place to make other arrangements for them. This is, of course, a last resort but it may well be the only one you feel is available to you.

### **4. Speak with parent governors**

The governors of a school have ultimate responsibility for sex education in England. The school's annual report will list the school governors. Get in touch with the elected parent governors and let them know your views. You can always stand as a parent governor yourself when the next elections come round.

### **5. Talk to other parents**

It is important to remember that you will not be alone in your concerns about your child's welfare. The likelihood is, if you have worries about some of the materials, others will too.

You will find that many parents will become concerned about

this issue if they get to know what is actually going on. It may simply be that they do not know what the school is teaching. A group of parents working together can be hugely influential.

## **6. Contact your MP, local councillors and the local press**

If the school does not appear to be responding to your concerns you should write to your local MP. You can send letters to them at: House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA.

Find out who they are – go to the Parliament website ([www.parliament.uk](http://www.parliament.uk)); ask at the library; or look in the phone book.

You might also wish to contact your local councillors (who may be surprisingly sympathetic).

Perhaps you have never met with your elected representatives before; you could go and see them at a constituency or ward surgery. Here are some top tips:

- Be calm
- Be prepared before you go. Have a few simple points to put across, and if you can, show some examples of the materials you are concerned about.
- You might want to go as a small group, especially if there are other parents who are equally troubled.

Consider writing a letter to the local press. Your letter should be reasonable and temperate, emphasising that you are concerned about the sex education materials being used at your child's primary school. If you have not been able to reach an acceptable conclusion with your child's school, say so.

## **7. Statutory complaints procedure**

Parents should first raise any concerns informally with their child's class teacher and then with the head teacher. If matters are still unresolved parents should ask the school for a copy of its formal

complaints procedure. All state-funded schools are required to have a procedure to deal with any complaints relating to the school. Initially this involves a complaint to the school governing body, and after that to the local authority and ultimately to the Secretary of State.



# Extracts from Education Act 1996

## **Section 403 Sex education: manner of provision**

- (1) The governing body and head teacher shall take such steps as are reasonable practicable to secure that where sex education is given to any registered pupils at a maintained school, it is given in such a manner as to encourage those pupils to have due regard to moral considerations and the value of family life.
- (1A) The Secretary of State must issue guidance designed to secure that when sex education is given to registered pupils at maintained schools—
  - (a) they learn the nature of marriage and its importance for family life and the bringing up of children, and
  - (b) they are protected from teaching and materials which are inappropriate having regard to the age and the religious and cultural background of the pupils concerned.
- (1B) In discharging their functions under subsection (1) governing bodies and head teachers must have regard to the Secretary of State’s guidance.

## **Section 405 Exemption from sex education**

If the parent of any pupil in attendance at a maintained school requests that he may be wholly or partly excused from receiving sex education at the school, the pupil shall, except so far as such education is comprised in the National Curriculum, be so excused accordingly until the request is withdrawn.

## **Key points from statutory guidance**

The current guidance from the Secretary of State on sex education was issued in July 2000 (DfEE 0116/2000).

The guidance says that pupils should learn “the reasons for delaying sexual activity, and the benefits to be gained from such delay”. (page 5)

The guidance reiterates the importance of suitable materials being used: “Inappropriate images should not be used nor should explicit material not directly related to explanation. Schools should ensure that pupils are protected from teaching and materials which are inappropriate, having regard to the age and cultural background of the pupils concerned.” (page 8, para. 1.8)

It states that when developing their sex education policy schools should consult parents: “Schools should always work in partnership with parents, consulting them regularly on the content of sex and relationship education programmes.” (page 26, para. 5.6)

# References

## Introduction references

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- <sup>1</sup> Sex Education Forum, *Briefing for Parliamentarians: Children, Schools and Families Bill*, December 2009
- <sup>2</sup> FPA, *Sexual Health and the New Parliament*, see <http://www.fpa.org.uk/campaignsandadvocacy/advocacyandlobbying/generalelection> as at 25 November 2010
- <sup>3</sup> *Press Association National Newswire*, 23 July 2010
- <sup>4</sup> *Daily Mail*, 17 June 2010
- <sup>5</sup> Teenage Pregnancy Independent Advisory Group, *Teenage Pregnancy: Why We Need Sustained Action to Accelerate Reductions in Teenage Pregnancy*, September 2009
- <sup>6</sup> House of Commons, Hansard, 21 July 2010, col. 495
- <sup>7</sup> Education Act 1996, Section 404
- <sup>8</sup> *The Importance of Teaching*, Department for Education, November 2010, page 46, para 4.30
- <sup>9</sup> House of Commons, Hansard, 11 January 2010, col. 464
- <sup>10</sup> House of Commons, Hansard, Public Bill Committee, 2 February 2010, col. 398
- <sup>11</sup> House of Commons, Hansard, 19 July 2010, col. 25
- <sup>12</sup> Education Act 1996, Section 405
- <sup>13</sup> David Paton, Professor of Industrial Economics at Nottingham University Business School, has pointed to statistical evidence showing that since the Strategy began diagnoses of sexually transmitted infections have increased, while the rate of decline in pregnancy rates has slowed. See *Children and Young People Now*, 18 March 2009
- <sup>14</sup> Oates, T. *Could Do Better: Using International Comparisons to Refine the National Curriculum in England*, University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate, 18 November 2010, page 4; *The Telegraph Online*, 18 November 2010, see <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/8143429/Schools-overloaded-by-curriculum-reforms-says-exam-chief.html> as at 19 November 2010
- <sup>15</sup> *The Importance of Teaching*, Department for Education, November 2010, page 41, para 4.7
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# Too much, too young

## Exposing primary school sex education materials

There are repeated calls for sex education to be made mandatory for all primary schools. This booklet uncovers explicit resources already recommended for primary-aged children by local councils and others. If sex education is forced on primary schools, we expect the use of these resources to become more widespread.

Under the present law primary schools do not have to teach sex education and so have considerable freedom. Thanks to the good judgement of teachers we believe the most explicit materials are not being used widely. Perhaps this is why campaigners want the teaching of sex education to be centralised – they are not getting what they want when decisions are left to schools.

It is important for parents to recognise that today's sex education is quite unlike anything they may have seen during their own school days. This booklet encourages parents to make appropriate inquiries into what may be in use at their child's school and gives helpful tips for taking constructive action if necessary. Extracts from relevant legislation are included, so parents have a clearer idea of their rights.



CHRISTIAN INFLUENCE IN A SECULAR WORLD

Registered office: The Christian Institute, Wilberforce House,  
4 Park Road, Gosforth Business Park, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE12 8DG  
Tel: 0191 281 5664 Fax: 0191 281 4272

Email: [info@christian.org.uk](mailto:info@christian.org.uk) Internet: [www.christian.org.uk](http://www.christian.org.uk)

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