

Autism Forum: Planning for the Future

Sexuality and Social Skills



Adapted from:

Amanda Keating, & Nycole Kauk, University of South Florida, 2013

Social Skills

What's "Normal?"

- Social Skills Development
 - Sexuality encompasses
 - Feelings
 - Attitudes
 - behaviors

Contributing to a person's own sense of womanhood or manhood

Where Did You Learn That??

- Peers
- Parents— Styles??
- "Hollywood"—Censored?
- Research—Invivo? Internet"
 - Others??

Fact: Our Jaded History with Handicapped

- Bans on marriage and/or sexual activity
- Sterilization without Consent (or even Knowledge)
- Displays of sexuality regarded as deviant, inappropriate, and reason for punishment

Myths

- Delayed or Autistic Individuals have little or interest
- Can't have sex
- Are Hypersexual
- Are Totally Heterosexual
 - Asexuality
 - Romantic Asexuality

Some Important Facts: Rationale

- 82% women, and 65% of men with Disabilities have experienced sexual intercourse (Timmens, 1981).
- Lower levels of sexual knowledge and experience (except body part id and menstration)
- Primary information source (typical peers) is rarely available to our population (Volkmar, 2003)

Sexual Education Given For Most Handicapped Populations...

- Given That A Majority Have Had the Experience,

How Many Have Had

- Inappropriate
- Offensive
- Potentially Dangerous (Griffiths 1991)



Sexuality Education (Concepts)

- Human Development

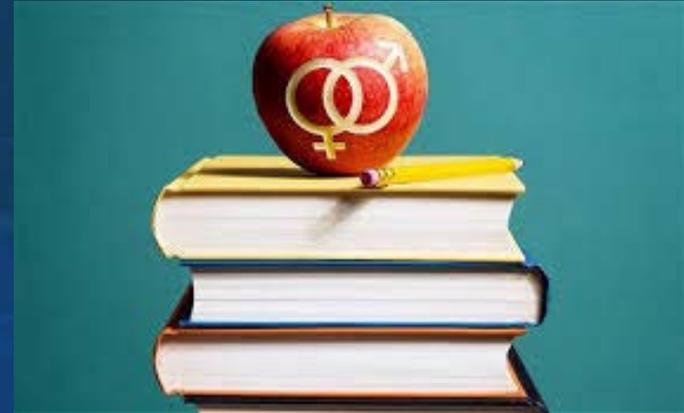
- Health and Safety
- Personal Skills

- Society and Culture

- Health and Safety
- Interpersonal Skills and Boundaries

Language

- Anatomically Correct
 - Ex.: Cervix
- Street Language
 - Ex.: Hooters
- Childhood Language
 - Ex.: Wee wee
- Common Discourse
 - Ex.: Making Love



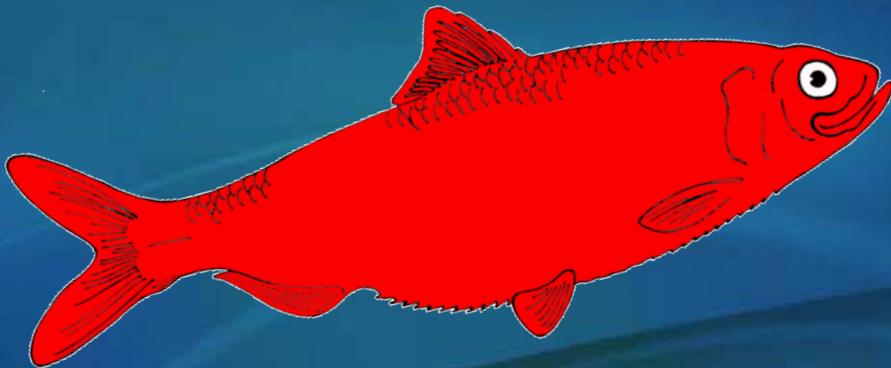
Red Flags Vs. Red Herrings

Differs from Typical Pattern

- Frequency
- Duration
- Child Expresses Distress Over Activity

Typical in Comparison to Age/Development

- Typical in Comparison to Peers
- Child does not Express Distress About Activity



Concerns With Maturity

- Using Internet access (graphic, inappropriate sites)
- Behavior in Public Restrooms
- Naïve Sexually
 - Social Misunderstanding of “Friendship” or Compensation for Sexual Behavior
 - Confused Self Concepts
 - Social Skills Deficits -

Differences; Is It A ...

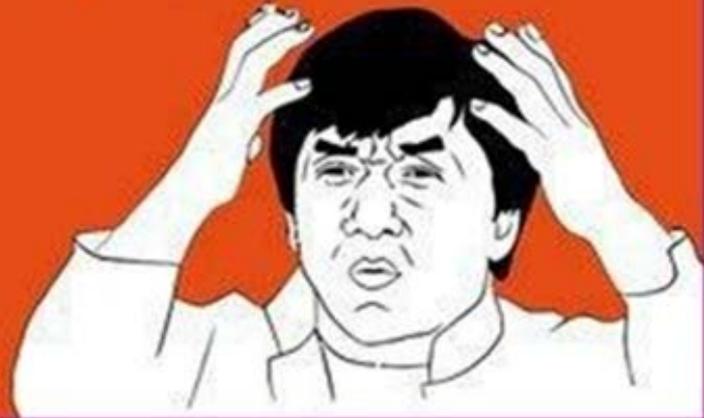
- Problem for the Child Behaver
 - Puts him at risk (health, reproduction, exploitation, stigma, self-image)
 - In Which Case is it a Behavioral or Performance Deficit

OR

- Problem for Others
 - Violates norms, Standards, Values, Breaks Regulations
 - In Which Case it may be considered a Behavioral Excess or Stimulus Control Deficit

Specific to ASD Understanding

“Don’t talk to strangers.”
Well, how am I supposed
to make friends?



Words of Caution: Empirical Results



Evidence Based Strategies

- Proactive Teaching
 - Develop New Understanding and Skills
 - Shape Discrimination, Setting Specific Behavior
- Intervention
 - Problem Behavior
 - “Close” Talker:
 - Stranger Approaches
 - Appropriate

And NOW

Your turn

Stim On This...