

How and When to Tell Your Kids about Sex

Session Two: Laying the Foundation - Sex and the Young Child

Case Study: Dealing with the Discovery of Sexual Pleasure

Cindy and Bill placed little 3 year old Steve in the tub with the warm water running vigorously out of the tap. They were chatting quietly in the kitchen when within seconds they began to hear squeals of laughter and delight from the bathroom. Bill walked in to check on what is going on, and found Steve holding his penis under the running water and squealing with delight. Oblivious to his dad for a moment, Steve stepped back from the water, looked down at his penis with wonder, and then stepped back to the tap so that the water ran over his penis again, resulting in more squeals. Bill stepped back out of the bathroom for an instant to regain his composure, and then went back in, turned off the water, and used this "teachable moment."

Parent: You were running the water over your penis.

Child: [Steve nods, unsure of how his dad is going to react]

Parent: I heard you laughing. Were you laughing because it felt so good?

Child: Yeah, it felt funny!

Parent: It really does feel funny and good. Did you know that God made your penis that way, so that it could make you feel really good?

Child: He did?

Parent: Yes, it's true. And do you know why God did that? Because when you grow up and marry, God wanted you to be able to share some wonderful fun with your wife and only your wife. God wanted to give you a way to love her and her a way to love you that is so special that it will help to hold the two of you together like you are glued together! And so he made your penis so that it feels special and He made her vagina area that it feels special, and someday the two of you can feel very special together! So every time you think about your penis feeling good, you can think of how God made it that way as a special gift to you to make you happy.

Discuss: Do you think a child who has discovered sexual pleasure has committed sin? What do you like/dislike about the parent's initial response? Do you agree or disagree with the way this parent concluded this situation? Why?