

Request for Reconsideration of Instructional Resources

Date: 1/24/2020		*Please see attachment	
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Do you represent: <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yourself <input type="radio"/> A group / organization Teachers who sign letter Please specify name of organization:			

Material Information

Title: Sex Is A Funny Word

Format (book, video, database, etc.):

ISBN (if available):

Book / Online access

Author / Creator:

Copyright Date: 2015

Cory Silverberg and Fiona Smyth

Have you read / viewed / listened to this material in its entirety?

☒ Yes
☐ No

What brought this material to your attention?

A student in my class was touching his nipples under his shirt and began rubbing his genitals over his pants. The SPED teacher was close by and saw the book + his actions and took the book.

What do you think is the main idea / purpose of this material?

The author clearly stated his purpose in an interview that the purpose of the book is to teach about masturbation, sexual abuse, sexual identity, "sexy" as a word, and gender identity.

What concerns you about this material? Please be specific - cite page numbers, passages, timestamps, etc.

The author clearly states himself, "I wrote this for a private audience, not for kids to read at school; some things we should talk about at school and some things we shouldn't. There are some things sex educators shouldn't do in school like talking about how to have sex." My concern is that he also says that kids can handle the material because he talks to 7-10yr. olds.

What do you feel might be the result of a student using this material?

Introduction of ~~a~~ complex topics with no answers or guidance. A teacher is now forced into the position to have complex conversations that are reserved for ^{qualified professionals} in the field.

Which reviews of this material have you read / seen? Please be specific - cite sources.

Interview of the author on youtube and the forward of the book. Site - <http://youtu.be/pbaMyfC4URw>

What would you like the school to do about this material?

Removed for Ludlow Public School libraries for inappropriate content.

What alternate resources would you suggest to serve the same purpose as this material?

I do not think books that include maturation should be on the shelf.

Submitted by:

Bonnie A Manchester

Signature

1/24/2020

Date

Received by:

Signature

Date

Approved:

Sex is a Funny Word

by Cory Silverberg and Fiona Smyth
c. 2015

This book has been checked
out eleven plus times since 10/2016

Introductions

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

This book is meant to be read over weeks, months, and years, rather than just a few sittings. you'll find that it sparks different ages and stages.

Before you read the book with children, or give it to children to read on their own, read it through yourself. Pay attention to the question pages at the ends of chapters.

Think through your own answers or responses to those questions, and think about those questions, and think about how you would address those questions with a child.

This is especially important for that last chapter in Section 4, called "Secret Touch," which deals with sexual abuse. This is a difficult topic for all of us. We don't want to imagine our children being sexually victimized, and many of us have our own experience of sexual harassment and violence, which we can't help but bring to mind when thinking about the safety of children in our lives. Read over this chapter carefully before reading with a young person, and give yourself time and permission to respond on your own before you try to read it with a child.

Throughout the book, when you reach a question page, share your answers. If the children you are reading with aren't ready to share their own, don't pressure them. If you are patient and make room for kids to choose when to talk, eventually they will.

....NO PRESSURE

The only sexual activity in this book is masturbation (in "Touching Yourself," Section 4). We'll address more behaviors in the last book in this series.

Section 1: Learning about Sex

"Learning about sex is kind of like visiting a carnival or a fair, You can never do it all in one day. It can be fun and strange and sometimes scary"

(sex).."Some words always mean the same thing (like sunshine or crayon). Other words have many different meanings (like play)."

"Sex is a word like play"

"Sex is something people can do to feel good in their bodies , and also to feel close to another person."

"Sex is a way grown-ups make babies"

"Part of sex is feeling joy and pleasure. When you are younger, you can feel this joy and pleasure on your own, in your own body."

Questions- "If you want you can share your answers with someone you trust-maybe the person who gave you this book"

pg. 30

1. Who are some people in your life who you trust?
 2. How can you tell if you can trust someone?
 3. Have there been times you have heard the word sex and not understood what it meant?
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Section 2: All Bodies Have Stories, Every Body is Different and Every Body is the Same

pg. 44

"Always ask before you touch someone else's body."

Activity

pg. 39

1. Draw a picture of what your outside body looks like.
2. Now draw a picture of what the stories inside you feel like
3. Compare how your body looks and how your body feels.
4. What are some things that are the same?
5. What are some things that are different?

P.44

1. What are some things you can do on your own?
2. What are some things you need help with?
3. Are there things that make your body feel good?
4. What makes your body feel bad?
5. Are there times when your body doesn't feel good or bad?
6. What does your body feel like right now?

pg. 45

1. Draw a picture of what your body looks like now. Show the parts you like the best.
 2. Next, draw a picture of what you imagine your body could look like when you're older. Will some things look different? Will some things look the same?
 3. How has your body grown and changed since you were a baby?
 4. How do you feel about your body growing and changing?
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Section 3: We're All Naked Underneath Our Clothes

"Did you ever wonder why we have to wear clothes all the time?....I mean who made the rules? If I could be naked all the time I would."

"Some people love the feeling of being naked. When you are naked you can see and touch your body without clothes getting in the way."

"Every family and community has its own rules about being naked. Even grown-ups have to follow the rules other people make for them about when it's okay to be naked and when it isn't."

P. 49

1. When do you wear clothes and when is it okay to be naked?
2. What are some things you like about being naked?
3. What are some things you don't like about it?
4. Do you like the clothes you wear?

Section 4: Privacy and Private Parts

"You might choose to share it with people you trust, but if it is private, it should be your choice."

"There are some parts we show people and other parts we cover with clothes. There are some parts that we choose to let other people touch and other parts that are just for us."

"Some people use the term *private parts* to describe parts of the body that have to do with sex. Because any part of your body can be private, in this book we don't call them your private parts. We call them your middle parts, because they are in the middle part of your body."

P. 55

1. How do different people in your family feel about what should be covered and what can be shown?
2. Is this different in other families you know?
3. Do you have parts of your body you like to hide?
4. Do you have parts you like to show?

Section 5: The Middle Parts

"Hey Omar, I'll show you mine if you show me yours!" "...No your...you know down there."

"Sometimes people make up funny or silly names for middle parts. Silly names can be fun, but it's also good to know the names that a teacher, doctor, or nurse would use if they wanted to tell you something or ask you a question about your body"

Picture peeking over a fence into a nudist colony:

"Learning about these body parts might make you want to see them on other people."

"But what if you are curious and want to learn? One way to do this is to look in a book with drawings. Like this one. On the next few pages you'll find lots of drawings of middle parts."

p. 60-61 Pictures of breast and nipples (kid's nipples and breasts along with adult nipples and breasts)

"Some nipples are sensitive and some are not. Nipples can feel very good to touch, but if you pinch them it can hurt!"

"Like nipples, some people's breasts are sensitive and can feel good when they are touched"

p. 62-63 Pictures of kid and adult bottoms

"Between the cheeks, there is a hole or opening where poo (also called feces) comes out. this hole is called the anus. Like other holes in the body, the anus is usually very sensitive, which means it can feel good to touch but can also hurt if we are rough with it"

"...we need to wash our hands after touching it"

pg. 64-65 Vulva, Clitoris, and Vagina (pictures of kids and adults)

(vulva)

"...but when the body is young, it looks like two folds pressed together with a line down the middle."

"Every grown-up vulva will look different."

(clitoris)

"The clitoris can be very sensitive, and touching it can feel warm and tingly"

"Some are easy to see and feel, and some are not."

(urethra)

"...it's good to wash our hands before and after we touch it."

(penis, testicles, and scrotum) pictures of kids and adults

(penis)

"Sometimes it is soft and sometimes it gets hard"

"Like the clitoris, the penis can be very sensitive, and touching it can feel warm and tingly."

"...it is good to wash our hands before and after we touch it."

(foreskin)

"It's important not to pull on the foreskin too hard before it loosens on its own."

(scrotum and testicles)

"Most bodies with testicles have two of them. But some have one."

"Even with the scrotum the testicles can be hurt if they are touched roughly"

(erections)

"Most bodies get erections"

"...sometimes it is soft and bendy, and sometimes it gets hard and doesn't bend, that's an erection"

"If your body has a clitoris, you might have noticed that sometimes it feels soft, and sometimes it feels a bit harder or firmer. When it's harder or firmer, that's an erection."

"Erections can happen when we touch ourselves to feel good, but they also happen at other times: during the night when we are asleep, and first thing in the morning when we get up"

"Babies will often get erections when they have to pee."

pg. 69

1. In your family, are there times when it's okay and times when it's not okay to talk about middle parts?
2. Have you heard other names for middle parts?
3. Do you have more questions about your middle parts?

Section 6: Who Has What

"But having a penis isn't what makes you a boy. Having a vulva isn't what makes you a girl."

"Sometimes the people looking see a big clitoris and think it's a penis. Sometimes they see a small penis and think it's a clitoris. Sometimes they aren't sure."

pg. 79

1. What did they call you when you were born?
2. Why do you think people want to know if a baby is a boy or a girl?

Section 7: What We Call Ourselves

"When we are born, a doctor or midwife calls us boy or girl because of what we look like on the outside."

"What about our whole body, inside and out? What about who we think we are?"

"As we grow into being a kid and then an adult, we get to figure out who we are and what words fit best"

"Maybe you are a boy and feel like a girl."

"Maybe you are a girl and feel like a boy."

"That's how you want to be treated and what you want to do."

"Have you ever noticed that people say that some things are for boys and some are for girls? Have you ever wondered who makes those rules"

pg. 87

1. What do you think about the words boy and girl?
2. Why do you think those words are important to people?
3. Are they important to you?

4. Do you know anyone for whom those words don't fit?

pg. 88

1. Have you ever noticed that people say that some things are for boys and some are for girls?
2. Have you ever wondered who makes those rules?
3. Has anyone ever told you that you couldn't do something because you are a boy or a girl?
4. Look at the activities on these two pages. Which ones do you like to do?

Section 7: Magic Touch

"Touch can help someone feel good, help them get something done they couldn't do on their own, or help them notice something new in the world"

"Some touch can feel like hurting."

"One way to show respect and build trust is to ask before you touch someone."

"Once you know each other you probably won't ask every time., but with a new person asking is one way of making your touch help and not hurt."

pg. 97

1. Can you think of a time when you touched someone and it helped?
2. What about a time you touched someone and it hurt?
3. When is touching okay and not okay?

Section 9: Being Touched

"Only you know what you feel like when you are being touched."

"There are times when someone might have to touch you even if you don't want them to."

"Everyone has times when they want to be touched and other times when they do not want to be touched."

"Whenever anyone touches you and it feels like hurting touch, it's okay to tell them."

"It's also nice to tell people if they are giving you a helping touch and it makes you feel good."

pg. 101

1. Are there ways people touch you that you don't like?
2. What are some of the ways you liked to be touched?

Section 8: Touching Other People

"anytime you are not comfortable touching someone or having someone touch you, you can always try to talk about it."

pg. 105

1. Are there people in your life you don't feel comfortable hugging, kissing, or touching?
2. What could you do instead?
3. Do you remember a time when you were expected to touch someone but didn't want to?

Section 9: Touching Yourself

"We touch ourselves all the time, in all kinds of places, for all kinds of reasons."

"You may have discovered that touching some parts of your body, especially the *middle parts* [private parts], can make you feel warm and tingly."

"Grown-ups call this kind of touch masturbation. Masturbation is when we touch ourselves, usually our middle parts, to get that warm and tingly feeling."

"When you were younger, you may have discovered that it felt good to touch yourself. You may have done this even when you weren't alone. As you get older, grown-up expect that if you want to touch yourself to feel good, especially your middle parts, you'll do it when you are in a private place."

pg. 108 Pictures of masturbation tents called bio-domes that kids are going into while at a family picnic. Tents say things like "Smart Zone, Tickle Country, Sore Valley, Sensitive Island"

pg. 109

1. Have you heard other people use the word masturbation or talk about touching themselves to feel good?
2. Do you know if there are rules in your family about touching yourself?
3. If there are rules do they make sense to you?

Section 10: Secret Touching

"Some people call it secret touching"

"It's called secret touching because no matter where someone touches you or where you touch them, the make you keep it a secret."

"They want to keep it a secret because they know that what they are doing is wrong, and they don't want other people to find out. They might try to scare you so you won't tell. They might be nice to you so you won't tell."

"Sometimes the person wants to touch you, and sometimes they want you to touch them."

"If this has already happened to you, or if it happened to a friend or someone you know, it's always good to tell someone, even if it happened a long time ago. maybe you could tell the person who gave you this book."

"Secret touching might feel good like helping touch or bad like hurting touch. It might feel strange or weird or scary, or it may just leave you with questions."

p. 115

1. Has anyone tried to touch you in a way that made you feel confused, uncomfortable, or scared?
2. Has anyone asked you to touch them in a way that made you feel confused, uncomfortable, or scared?
3. Who are some people you could go to if this happened to you or someone you know?

Section 11: Good Word, Bad Words, Sex Words

Graphic novel scene: child is trying to talk to parents and parents shut down the conversation. It is only a few times where parents are referenced and are made to look incompetent to have a discussion with their child.

"It also matters how the word feels to the person we are talking with."

"Not everyone feels safe or able to talk about sex. Talking about sex can make some people feel uncomfortable or angry"

"We can ask questions and talk about sex in ways that help and in ways that hurt."

"Talking about sex can feel uncomfortable, but it can also be exciting and fun."

p. 123

1. Have you heard any sex words?
2. Do you know what they mean?
3. If you have questions about what sex words mean, who could you ask?

Section 12: What is Sexy?

"Zef isn't sexy at all, he's boring."

"One person may think something or someone is sexy, and another person may not."

"When grown-ups call other grown-ups sexy, it usually means they...think that person looks attractive, like the way they are dressed, felt excited by the way they move around."

"When grown-ups call themselves sexy, it may mean they...like how their body feels, felt good about themselves inside and out, want to share that feeling with others."

pg. 131

1. Have you heard people use the word sexy?
2. What do you think they meant?
3. Has anyone ever called you sexy?
4. How did you feel?
5. Is it okay to call someone sexy?

Section 13: Crushes

Graphic Novel scene where the parents are portrayed as being ignorant and unable to understand their child

"For some people, having a crush means wanting to be physically close and touch, like holding hands or hugging."

pg. 141

1. Have you ever had a crush on someone?
2. What did it feel like?
3. Ask grown-ups you trust if they have had a crush on someone.
4. Ask them to describe what it felt like.

Section 14: Love

"Sometimes, but not all the time, crushes and love come with sexy feelings."

"But it's good to know a little bit about crushes, love, and sexy feelings even before they happen."

"One way to show yourself love and respect is to be nice to your own body. Maybe by taking a rest when you feel tired. Maybe by giving yourself a pat on the back or arm. Maybe by giving yourself a kiss!"

"The world can be such a busy place, grown-ups are always asking you to do this and that, be here and there."

pg. 147

1. What are some things you love to do?
2. Who are some people you love?
3. What do you love about yourself?
4. What are some ways you can show love, to yourself and to others?

Section 15: Relationships

"You can have imaginary relationships with people you've never met, like someone from a book, movie, or TV show, or someone from your own imagination."

"When we are young, most of our relationships are with the people we live with, who take care of us. As we get older, we have more choice about who our friends are and who we want to spend time with. As we get older, some of us decide to start new relationships with people we have a crush on, feel love for, or have sexy feelings for."

"Have you heard people use the words gay or lesbian? How about asexual or queer?"

"Every community has its own words, but here are a few that lots of people use: bisexual, gay, straight, lesbian, asexual, queer. Some of these words may be new to you, (they may be new to a grown-up you're reading this with too!) If you want to learn more about what they mean, you can look in the back of the book."

"It helps when we get to choose what we call ourselves and our relationships."

p. 153

1. Has anyone ever used a word to describe you in a way that hurt?
2. Ask adults you trust if this has ever happened to them?
3. Who are some people you like?
4. Who are some people you love?
5. Who are some people you trust?
6. What things do you think are important for a good relationship?

"By the time you grow up some of the words in this book may mean very different things than what they mean today. The exciting thing to know is that you can be part of that change."