

Age-Appropriate Talking Points About Pornography

Birth to 5 years

- Tell your children they are a child of God and are valuable in his sight and yours.
- Create family traditions and rituals.
- Remember you are your child's protector.
- Teach body privacy.
- Discourage secrets and secret friends.
- Show love and build trust.
- Watch out for red flags that indicate your child may be in trouble.

Primary Grades 1, 2, & 3

- Continue to remind your children they are a child of God and have great dignity.
- Teach appropriate touching.
- Express feelings appropriately.
- Show respect for others.
- Give permission to say "NO."
- Explain to your children love means to do what is right for the good of another.
- Define who you are as a family in Christ. Let that definition guide your family in your decision making process.
- Make virtue a habitual and firm disposition to do good. What virtues describe your family -- Prudence, Justice, Fortitude, Temperance, etc.
- Pray often with your children.

Upper Grades 4 & 5

- Help your children to internalize that every person is a child of God, worthy of being treated with kindness and respect for his/her dignity.
- Remind children they are smart and you trust them to make good choices.
- Discuss choosing friends wisely.
- Guard against sexual exposure -- a child's innocence must always be protected.
- Encourage your children's intrinsic self worth to you, as parent(s) and to God.

- Share feelings and talk openly.
- Warn about seductions and tricks.
- Initiate conversations with your child about sexuality and be a parent who your child turns to find out the truth about sex and sexuality.

Middle School

- Keep your family centered in God and faith.
- Explain that God calls us to love one another and the opposite of love is to use someone for our own wants. To use another is always wrong.
- Praise your children for the good they do.
- Teach children to set goals for themselves and help them understand what can keep them from reaching those goals.
- Listen to your children -- they need to know you care and value them.
- Ask their opinion and draw them out.
- Guide appropriate dress and self respect.
- Create fun times together.

High School

- Know God's plan for the gift of human sexuality, which he instituted for the Sacrament of Marriage, has the power to protect the relationship and the person.
- Know the difference between love and infatuation.
- Love is to will the good of the other.
- Help set healthy sexual boundaries.
- Establish dating guidelines.
- Remind them that pornography rips them off.
- Realize rape is never, ever OK.
- Recognize girls will sometimes give sex in hopes of getting love, but instead will be used.
- Remember pornography warps your view of sex and is extremely detrimental to a healthy, happy relationship now and in the future.

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