

# How to Answer Student Questions

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# Land Acknowledgement



# Group Agreements

- Ask Questions
- LOL
- Respect Confidentiality
- Participate as You are Comfortable
- Reserve the Right to Change your Mind



Share your  
thoughts...

1

What experiences  
have you already  
had teaching  
sexual health?



2

What is one thing  
that excites you  
about teaching  
sexual health?



3

What is one thing  
that worries you  
about teaching  
sexual health?



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# Why CSHE matters



**Mark Lisseman**

@marklisseman

Follow



Is that diagram... accurate??



8:00 AM - 29 Apr 2019



I WANT TO  
BE A LESBIAN  
TOO.

mr.d



# Questions in Sex Ed Class

How to use a question box effectively



The 4 types of questions you will get



Tips for answering each type



Disclosures



# Should you use a question box?

Yes!



Asking questions is part of learning

For this topic, asking can be embarrassing or uncomfortable

Anonymity encourages more questions

Allows teacher time to prepare answers



# Types of Questions



Requests  
for  
information



Values/  
permission  
seeking



Am I  
normal?



Shock!!



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# Requests for Information

*“What is a wet dream?”*

*“Does masturbation make you blind?”*

*“What’s a blow job?”*

## What are they?

*Requests for Information* questions are usually relatively simple and students are just looking for facts

## Tips for answering:

- If you know the answer, provide information within curriculum guidelines.
- it is okay to say “I don’t know” and come back later with the answer.
- Teach the science words with the slang

# Am I Normal?

## What are they?

*Am I Normal* questions generally focus on concerns about the physical and emotional changes they are experiencing.

*"Sometimes my voice cracks and it's so embarrassing. What should I do?"*

## Tips for answering:

- Validate concerns..."many people wonder about..." or "I am sure other people think about..."
- Then follow up with some information on what they can expect at this stage in their life.

*"How do you know when you will get your period?"*

# Values/Permission-Seeking

*“Is it ok for a 13-year-old girl to have sex with her 14-year-old boyfriend?”*

*“Should I be using tampons?”*

*“Did you ever...when you were growing up?”*

## What are they?

*Values/Permission-Seeking* questions often come in form of asking to participate in a particular behaviour.

## Tips for answering:

- Normalize without using the word “normal” when answering questions.
- Present facts: what is known medically, legally, risk factors, stats, positive and negative health outcomes.
- Refer students to their parents, family doctor, school nurse, church/religious leader, community, trusted adult if appropriate.

# Shock!

## What are they?

Shock questions may be raised due to embarrassment about the topic, an underlying concern, or simply to cause a diversion.

*“What’s a rim job?”*

## Tips for answering:

- Assume a positive intent and answer the question.
- Remind students of group agreements.
- Rephrase slang as a learning opportunity.
- Use anatomically correct terms in your response.

*“Does your partner like it when you...?”*



# The Question Box: Process

**After each session distribute identical pieces of paper to every student.**

**Every student must write something on the paper and submit it.**

**Collect the questions and put into the “question box.”**

**Tell students you will answer the questions at the beginning of NEXT class.**

# The Question Box: Process



- After school, read through all the questions
- Get your giggles out
- Sort into 2 piles:

I can answer  
right away

I need to look up  
the answer



# Getting Comfortable



- Be confident in your response
- Rehearse your delivery:



# Tips for Answering Questions

- Group similar questions together
- Re-word for anonymity
- Find the “nugget” in personal or shocking questions
- Model privacy and confidentiality



# Disclosures

**What if a student discloses abuse in the question box?**



# Disclosures

Be prepared

- School policy on reporting
- Local resources
- *Recognizing, Reporting and Responding to Abuse in Schools*
- Info 'for a friend'



# Questions above grade level

In a perfect world... answer them!!



In the real world...

- learn the culture of your school
- get admin support



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# TeachingSexualHealth.ca



## Teaching Sexual Health

Parents & Teachers: Be Proactive. Be Prepared.



### For Teachers

The teacher portal provides teachers and educators with evidence-based sexual health information, lesson plans, tools and resources.

[GET STARTED →](#)



### For Parents

As a parent, it's never too early or too late to talk to your child, or learn more yourself. The parent portal is here to help.

[GET STARTED →](#)

# Answering Questions



- Validate
- Normalize
- Rephrase slang to teach
- Answer every question as best you can
- Reach out to [tsh@ahs.ca](mailto:tsh@ahs.ca) if you are stuck!



# Thanks for coming!



For more information, please contact

**TSH@ahs.ca**

# How to Answer Questions

## Ground Rules

[Ground Rules - Teachers | Teaching Sexual Health](#)

[Teach » The Safe Zone Project](#)

## Answering Questions

[Responding to Student Questions - Teachers | Teaching Sexual Health](#)

[Student FAQs - Teachers | Teaching Sexual Health](#)

[Submit a Student Question - Teachers | Teaching Sexual Health](#)

## Disclosures and Abuse

Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-387-KIDS (5437)

[Schools | Preventing Child Abuse | Luna \(lunacentre.ca\)](#)

[How to help and report child abuse, neglect and sexual exploitation | Alberta.ca](#)

[AASAS](#)- Alberta Association of Sexual Assault Services

Alberta's One Line for Sexual Violence 1-866-403-8000 (call or text)

[Additional Resources - Teachers | Teaching Sexual Health](#)

[TSH@ahs.ca](mailto:TSH@ahs.ca)