

CHILDREN BENEFIT FROM SEX EDUCATION



SEXUAL LEARNING

ABUSE IS FRIGHTENING

Parents and teachers demand better protection. Over the past years, many stories have surfaced of girls and boys becoming victims of sexual abuse in schools, children's homes, institutions run by the church or sports clubs.

The abuse was committed by people the children were entrusted to, including teachers, education staff, priests and coaches. In some of these schools and institutions the abuse was committed under the pretence of sex education and permissiveness. As a consequence, there has been vocal criticism of certain aspects of sex education.

... AND TEACHING ABOUT SEX

Not giving children access to sex education is the wrong way to protect them from sexual abuse! It is essential that schools, day care centres and other institutions develop plans to protect children and young people from sexual abuse and violence. Providing age-appropriate, sensitive sex education is important because it informs and strengthens children and young people.

Good sex education plans also teach children and young people to recognise their own needs and know when to say no. Children who are aware of their own bodies and are free to explore their own sexuality know when an abuser is overstepping a boundary. Empowered children are able to defend themselves against sexual abuse and/or get help.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

WWW.PETZE-KIEL.DE

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ARGUMENTS IN FAVOUR OF SEX EDUCATION, DIVERSITY AND ACCEPTANCE

**Petze-Institut für
Gewaltprävention**

**FOR PARENTS, TEACHERS AND
EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS**

PROPAGANDA

There are people who are prepared to exploit the valid concerns of parents for their own political goals: right-wing populists, ultra-religious and neo-conservative groups and parties reject sex education. Some even want to banish sex education completely from the curriculum.

Others are trying to restore out-dated sexual morals, like »No sex before marriage!« Many populists object to the thought of sexual equality, and they frequently refuse to recognise that same-sex life choices or single-parent families have the same rights as everyone else

GOOD TO KNOW!

Sex education teaches about the biological issues relating to sexuality, reproduction, contraceptives, pregnancy, birth, sexually transmitted diseases, etc.

It is based on programmes for day care centres, schools and other institutions that are designed to impart an awareness of sexuality to children and young people, helping them to develop freely and to respect the intimacy and boundaries of others.

THANK YOU!

PETZE welcomes donations!

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CLEARING UP MISCONCEPTIONS

Sex education in pre-school care centres and primary schools is inappropriate because it »sexualises« children too early.

WRONG!

All people are sexual beings, including children. A child's sexuality is very different from adult sexuality, which frequently focuses on intercourse with other adults and aims to achieve climax. In contrast, child sexuality is more about sensual curiosity and a desire to explore the entire body. Sex education encourages girls and boys to learn about their own needs. At the same, it teaches social norms and conventions, such as age-appropriate feelings of shame and modesty.

The »natural« order of the sexes is inverted in pre-school and schools.

WRONG!

There is a great diversity in sexual roles and the forms that families can take. This has been recognised by the law and society for a long time. People who live in homosexual or trans-sexual relationships, and children who grow up in these families have a right to be seen and be accepted. This should be taught to all girls and boys. A return to old role models is a demand motivated by pure ideology, and it has little to do with ordinary, everyday life in Germany.

Educating children about contraceptives is to blame for the low birth rate.

WRONG!

The right to abortion was fought for by women who wanted control over their bodies and their lives. Whether men or women decide to have children is a choice determined by personal factors, but also by political and economic conditions, e.g., the availability of childcare, the compatibility between family and career. Contraceptives can provide protection against unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. Responsible adults know that it is important for youngsters to be aware of all the facts.

Modern curriculums ignore the »natural« difference between men and women.

WRONG!

Article 3 of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Germany states, »Men and woman shall have equal rights«. Schools and pre-school centres should contribute to showing children and young people the wealth of options they have to live their life as they want. Their choice of a career should be determined by their talents and what they enjoy doing, not their gender. There are male homemakers and female top managers: this is good and in no way »unnatural«.

Teaching children about rainbow families^[1] encourages homosexuality.

WRONG!

Around 10% of males and nearly 20% of women say they are sexually attracted to the same sex. Sexual attraction is not altered by learning about the various forms it can take. Educating people about homosexuality helps to get rid of prejudice and prevents discrimination. It also encourages girls and boys to live and love according to their own personal needs.

^[1] In a rainbow family at least one parent is homosexual.

Sex education makes children vulnerable to sexual predators.

WRONG!

Sex and relationship education encourages children to act according to their needs and to respect the boundaries of others. Children who know their own feelings and take them seriously are empowered to say »No!«, and are more likely to ask for help if needed. Good sex education is a solid basis for effective prevention of sexual abuse.

Sex education advertises pornography and sexual perversion.

WRONG!

Good sex education takes the age and personal backgrounds of the children and young people into consideration. Pornography and other content that is unsuitable for minors can be freely accessed on the internet. Sex education in schools empowers girls and boys to develop their own, critical opinions and to seek help if needed.

ACT NOW:

- » Educate your children!
- » Support good prevention work and sex education.
- » Reason against biased claims.
- » Write comments and letters disproving propaganda.

- » » » Contact the advice centres for more information:
www.akjs-sh.de
www.petze-kiel.de
www.profamilia.de