

Talking to Your Children About Intimacy: A Guide for Orthodox Jewish Parents

Posted by Kedusha - 12 Jan 2010 04:38

I read the recently published booklet Talking to Your Children About Intimacy: A Guide for Orthodox Jewish Parents, by Sara Diament, M.A. It states unequivocally that parents should never lie to children about the topic of intimacy and where babies come from. On the other hand, there is no need to tell them everything at a young age. The key is to give age-appropriate answers and information, and for parents to tailor their answers based on the intellect and personality of their children.

Chapter six (p.p. 50-53) describes a conversation on this topic between a mother and her 10-year-old daughter, and a father and his 11-year-old son. My opinion: The conversation is absurdly graphic for virtually all children of that age, even taking into account the author's disclaimer (p. 10) that parents know their children best and should tailor their message accordingly. I wonder if the author is so naive as to think that such graphic descriptions will not have any serious side effects, at least on boys, whose Nisyonos are exponentially greater.

Indeed, a serious critique of the booklet is that it completely sidesteps a very key issue - the challenges faced by young men before marriage. Because the author ignores that issue, she has no problem endorsing giving an 11-year-old boy a graphic description of marital relations, without considering the consequences.

Overall, I think the booklet gives some useful guidance and is a worthwhile read. However, certain parts of it need to be taken with several grains of salt.

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Re: Talking to Your Children About Intimacy: A Guide for Orthodox Jewish Parents

Posted by Kollel Guy - 12 Jan 2010 04:42

So what's the alternative, to say but not to say?

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Re: Talking to Your Children About Intimacy: A Guide for Orthodox Jewish Parents

Posted by Kedusha - 12 Jan 2010 04:56

[Kollel Guy wrote on 12 Jan 2010 04:42:](#)

So what's the alternative, to say but not to say?

Right - leave out any unnecessary graphics.

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Re: Talking to Your Children About Intimacy: A Guide for Orthodox Jewish Parents
Posted by Kollel Guy - 12 Jan 2010 05:00

Well keep in ming that Mrs. Diament is probably leaning towards the MO crowd, where the children are VREY exposed VERY early anyway. So in that situation there's more to put into perspective than just the topic itself...

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Re: Talking to Your Children About Intimacy: A Guide for Orthodox Jewish Parents
Posted by Kedusha - 12 Jan 2010 05:21

[Kollel Guy wrote on 12 Jan 2010 05:00:](#)

Well keep in ming that Mrs. Diament is probably leaning towards the MO crowd, where the children are VREY exposed VERY early anyway. So in that situation there's more to put into perspective than just the topic itself...

Rabbi Twerski doesn't seem to be recommending this booklet only for the Modern Orthodox. Plus, the author clearly feels that children need to be taught about intimacy regardless of whether or not they receive improper exposure to the topic. Finally, even taking into account what you said, I still think it's unnecessarily graphic.

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Re: Talking to Your Children About Intimacy: A Guide for Orthodox Jewish Parents
Posted by shemirateinayim - 12 Jan 2010 06:10

wake-up and yes this one is coming from me. no my username has NOT been hijacked.

Haishi niknis bishlocha derachim....bikesef ... bishtar... ubebiah. now ask a 7th grader to translate. how about biah shelo kedarko when they get to 10b. Teach it in a torah perspective!!! not in a conversation of detailed explicit contet. teach them the torah sources that deal with it. and let the details slowly trickle in. and Heck, you'll be elarning with your kids too!!!!

Teach them in torah, and they will see it in a torahdik way. I learnt kidushin with guys that have all seen a fair share of p&#& . And as long as we dumbed our english to yeshivishe lingo, it didn't feel even remotely inappropriate. Even Biah shelo kedarka, even the way the besulim is nikra. They learn the graphic details from bekius in gittin (no cloths, isha kolanis, mishapech mitaso).

teach it IN torah, and it will stay torah. yes shelter them, just don't shelter them in mesechtas NIDAH !! :-X that would be too far

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Re: Talking to Your Children About Intimacy: A Guide for Orthodox Jewish Parents
Posted by the.guard - 12 Jan 2010 15:41

I think Kedusha is right. No need to tell more than we have to.

This topic was discussed at length [over here](#).

See also chizuk e-mail #655 on [this page](#) where Rabbi Twerski weighed in.

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Re: Talking to Your Children About Intimacy: A Guide for Orthodox Jewish Parents
Posted by Kedusha - 12 Jan 2010 16:31

[Kedusha wrote on 12 Jan 2010 05:21:](#)

Finally, even taking into account what you said, I still think it's unnecessarily graphic.

The reason I'm not quoting what Mrs. Diament wrote is to avoid triggering anyone, especially those who are single. I can't see giving this level of detail to a child who is 10 or 11, and certainly not to a boy.

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Re: Talking to Your Children About Intimacy: A Guide for Orthodox Jewish Parents
Posted by Yosef Hatzadik - 23 Jun 2011 22:05

A great lecture for every parent to listen to!

Video Release By Project Yes: How To Talk To Your Children About Child Abuse

By Rabbi Yakov Horowitz

www.vosizneias.com/85825/2011/06/20/new-york-video-release-by-project-yes-how-to-talk-to-your-children-about-child-abuse

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Re: Talking to Your Children About Intimacy: A Guide for Orthodox Jewish Parents
Posted by ninetydays - 23 Jun 2011 22:09

[Kedusha wrote on 12 Jan 2010 16:31:](#)

[Kedusha wrote on 12 Jan 2010 05:21:](#)

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I agree that talking to your kids about these things can trigger the boys to fall. IF they are that

interested in it they can ask you. What they ask you no matter how graphic you should feel comfortable answering.

Remember; what you want to avoid and dont speak with them about their friends and/or others will.

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Re: Talking to Your Children About Intimacy: A Guide for Orthodox Jewish Parents
Posted by lookingforwisdom - 30 Jun 2011 19:18

[Kedusha wrote on 12 Jan 2010 16:31:](#)

[Kedusha wrote on 12 Jan 2010 05:21:](#)

Finally, even taking into account what you said, I still think it's unnecessarily graphic.

The reason I'm not quoting what Mrs. Diament wrote is to avoid triggering anyone, especially those who are single. I can't see giving this level of detail to a child who is 10 or 11, and certainly not to a boy.

My friend told me yesterday that 9 yr. old boy told him "I know where where babies grow just tell me how it comes out" to which he responded it's not nice for a boy like you that learns Torah all

day to ask such questions, when you'll need to know you'll find out.

I told him I think he did a mistake because that boy IS going to find out somehow, I wonder what other people here think, did he do the right think? he says what should I have told I'm not going to explain it to him all.

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