

or situations—prison, boarding schools, military units, isolated groups, for example—sheer lack of choice may be the deciding factor for someone who wishes to have sex with another person. It is common for men in prison to form sexual relationships with other men while in prison, and to resume heterosexual relationships on release back into the community, for example.

This is another example of why one must be specific when discussing sex. It is not useful to use phrases such as ‘homosexual sex’, or to assume that heterosexuals have one set of sexual activities and everybody else another set. Likewise, one can never assume that people in cross-sex relationships have never had any relationship with someone of their same sex. Or that homosexuals have never had experience with the opposite sex.

Men who have sex with men

There are numbers of nominally *heterosexual* men who seek out sexual activity with other men, either occasionally or quite regularly. Male prostitutes report that many of their clients are married men. In any town of any size, there are regular ‘beats’. These are usually secluded, or private, places where men go for quick, often anonymous sex with other men. Pubs, clubs, social events, sporting organisations and other venues may also be locations where men who have occasional sex with other men seek out casual sexual partners. In some towns, groups of men may regularly have sex with members of the group.

Many of these men are married, or in relationships with women, yet have the need or desire for occasional sex with other males. This is most often kept a secret from their female partners.

Our Western culture has not historically recognised this reality, and in English we have no one word to denote it. The AIDS epidemic forced us to think about people’s sexual practices, and the word ‘bisexual’ has come to be used to indicate a man who defines himself as heterosexual, who has either occasional or regular sex with other men. The phrase ‘men who have sex with men’ is also applied to them, and is probably more accurate than the term ‘bisexual’.

Explaining homosexuality

Start off very simply, and add more information as the child gets older. If by the age of 10, you are not sure if your child understands that homosexuality and bisexuality exist, I would suggest you find a way of bringing the topics up.

SUGGESTED WORDS FOR PRESCHOOLERS & OVER



1. A homosexual is a person who falls in love with someone of the same sex. You know how men and women can fall in love with each other. Well, a homosexual man is a man who falls in love with other men. A homosexual

woman is a woman who falls in love with other women.

2. (Poof) (queer) (fairy) is a word some people use to mean a homosexual man. A better word is gay or homosexual.
3. (Lezzie) (dyke) is a word some people use for a homosexual woman. Lezzie is short for lesbian. Lesbian is a better word to use.
4. Most people fall in love with someone of the opposite sex. A woman falls in love with a man. A man falls in love with a woman. But there are some people who fall in love with someone of their own sex.

People who fall in love with the other sex are called heterosexual.

People who fall in love with the same sex are called homosexual.

5. There are some people who can fall in love with either men or women. They are called bisexual.

Gay marriage

The right of homosexuals to be joined in marriage is currently a hot political and social topic.

It is undeniable that many homosexual couples wish to formalise their union; and there is a lot of discussion about their 'right' to do so under the laws of the jurisdiction in question.

1. Some gay men who are in love with their partners want to get married to each other.
2. Some lesbian women who are in love with their partners want to get married to each other.
3. The law in (our location) says that gay people (can) (cannot) get married. (The law here says that only a man and a woman can get married to each other.)
4. If they can't get married, some have a party or a celebration, give each other rings and make their promises to each other. They're married in their hearts, but not in the law.
5. If they can get married, then they have the same obligations to each other that any married couple has.
6. Why do they want to get married? For the same reasons that heterosexuals want to get married. They want to tell the world that they're a couple; and they want to be able to share their lives and their property with each other. They want to make it permanent.

How do homosexuals have sex?

Questions about 'how do they do it' will probably not come up until a later age. If