

## Explaining masturbation

### SUGGESTED WORDS FOR PRESCHOOLERS & OVER



Masturbation will probably come up when you find your child doing it. Just acknowledge it, and instruct them that it is a private activity, to be done in private. If you want them to stop, distract them with some other activity. Punishment doesn't work, and is just confusing for the child. When little girls first find their vagina, they may be tempted to stick an object into it. Discourage this, as it can lead to injury. Tell them that their vagina is still too little to have anything put into it.

1. Rubbing your vagina... (vulva) (penis) (clitoris) is OK. But do it in private, in your own room... (or name another place, such as the bathroom).
2. 'Wanking' is another word for masturbation. Masturbation means rubbing or playing with your own penis or clitoris or vagina.

If you find the word 'masturbation' too technical or daunting, try a phrase such as 'playing with your penis/vagina'.

As the child gets closer to age 10 or so, add information about ejaculation and orgasm.

1. Masturbating means playing with, rubbing, or pulling on the penis or the clitoris or the vagina. People do it because it feels good.
2. If a boy is masturbating, and his body has started to make sperm, he may ejaculate, or come. This means that the white, sticky semen squirts out of the end of the penis. Usually, there is a good feeling along with it.
3. If a person, girl or boy, is masturbating, they may get a good feeling called 'orgasm'. This kind of feeling also happens during other kinds of sexual activity later when they are older.
4. When boys and girls start to grow into men and women, their bodies change. Part of the changes of growing up include having more sexy feelings and thoughts. Sometimes, when that happens, they feel like masturbating. It's OK, in private.

Use the words and information above. Add the information that two people can masturbate each other as part of having sex.

1. When two people feel like having sex together, they might use their hands to rub each other's vagina or clitoris or penis.
2. Lots of people masturbate themselves. It's OK, at whatever age. It can be very useful if people feel like having sex, but don't have a partner.

3. Some grownups (people) masturbate each other if they want to have sex together, but don't have a condom.

## Explaining prostitution

### SUGGESTED WORDS FOR PRESCHOOLERS & OVER



At these ages, you would most likely discuss prostitution in response to a question, or to explain the meaning of a word such as 'whore', or to explain something on the news or TV. These suggestions assume that the child already knows what intercourse is. If not, you may first have to explain intercourse.

1. A 'whore' is another word for a prostitute. A prostitute is a person who gets paid to have sex with other people. 'Ho' (slang, as popularised by black American singers and rappers) is a short version of the word 'whore'.
2. There are some people who sell sex. That is, they have intercourse with someone who will pay them for it. They are called 'prostitutes' or 'sex workers'.

### SUGGESTED WORDS FOR EIGHT-YEAR-OLDS & OVER



They may want more information about what it is, exactly, that prostitutes do, or who becomes a prostitute. Additional information is that both males and females can be prostitutes; and that in some places, children are prostituted. You might also mention that in all countries, using children as prostitutes is a crime.

1. Prostitution means selling sex to someone. A person pays the prostitute (sex worker) to have intercourse or other sexual activities with them.
2. Prostitutes use the same kinds of sexual activities as everyone else, but they get paid for it. They don't do it because they really like or love the other person, but they do it for the money. It's a job.
3. People become prostitutes because they need the money, or because they think that's the best way to earn money. Some of them do it because they are hooked on drugs, and need to earn a lot of money every day to buy drugs. Some have no other way to earn money. Sometimes, children are forced to become prostitutes.
4. There are both men and women who are prostitutes. There are prostitutes for heterosexuals and for homosexuals.
5. A big problem in some countries is that young women and children are kidnapped, taken away, and forced to become prostitutes. This is called 'sexual slavery'. In Australia, some foreign women get tricked into coming here. Crooks tell them they will work at a respectable job. Then, when they get here, they are held captive and made to have sex for money.

**SUGGESTED WORDS FOR 10-YEAR-OLDS & OVER**

Use the words and the information above, plus information about prostitution and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. (Why? Because many people use prostitutes. Teaching safe sex includes intercourse with a loved one as well as intercourse which is purchased.)

1. Any person who uses a prostitute for intercourse should always use a condom. That is because a prostitute will be having intercourse with a lot of people, and some of those people may have the AIDS virus or other diseases.
2. There are male prostitutes who go with other men; and there are male prostitutes who go with women; and there are women prostitutes who go with women.
3. The 'escort' services and some of the dating services and personal ads you see in the paper are really offers of prostitution. (Look at some of these ads with your children, and discuss them.)
4. Nowadays, many prostitutes insist that their clients use condoms. A good brothel will also insist on it.
5. A brothel is a place like a house or hotel where several prostitutes work.
6. Grownups who use child prostitutes are committing a crime. There are some men, called pedophiles, who travel to poor countries, and buy children to have sex with. Or, they travel as tourists, and go to brothels or bars where children are made to have sex with customers. (Chapter 11 has more on pedophiles.)
7. Prostitution is against the law in some places; and in some places it is legal. In some places, brothels are legal, but it is not legal for prostitutes to work on the streets.

## **Explaining sexual imaginings and sexual fantasies**

Children use their imagination when they are trying to work out an understanding of a new experience or new idea, including sexuality. They also might experience dreams or daydreams with sexual content, which might be frightening or confusing—or just interesting.

Most people, as they grow up, have some sort of experience with some kind of sexual fantasies. Some just have occasional thoughts or daydreams, but many people fantasise while they are having sex, enhancing their responses by imagining things being done to them, or things they are doing to others. Teenagers fantasise about the kind of partner they might have, or about what intercourse might be like.

Some people like to act out sexual fantasies or stories in their love making; or take