

Protecting the Innocence of Childhood

Summary Points - Visit 3 - Chapters 3 & 4

1. One of the repeated precepts of this series, speaks to the progressive nature in which sensually-related truth can and should be communicated to children.
2. Sometimes, little people have big questions that need answers. The challenge for parents centers on what information can be shared, how detailed should you get, and when do you cross the line and give too much information.
3. Some practical guidelines when it comes to answering big questions:
 - a. Consider the child's age.
 - b. Provide answers based on the child's need to know and capacity to understand.
 - c. Make sure you understand the question being asked.
4. The concept of "proactive indirect" learning is the key to its success, because it allows parents to teach their children everything they need to know without giving them too much, or too little information.
 - a. Pro-Active" implies that parent initiate the transfer of biological knowledge that over time will lead to sensual understanding.
 - b. "Indirect" means all learning comes by way of taking knowledge gained through a morally-neutral object or example, and then allowing the child to transfer that knowledge to himself or herself as needed.
5. Parents create a morally-innocent fact file that will be stored in their child's memory. The child will have access to those facts anytime he or she needs them.
6. The facts shared have two notable characteristics:
 - a. they have no action attached to them;
 - b. they do not stimulate or put sexual emotions on alert.
7. Historically, sex education was always communicated through objects of nature: the birth of puppies, kittens and baby lambs. However, the most morally neutral and yet biologically comprehensive example of reproduction is the blossom of the flower. In fact, for young children, the most basic questions of life can be answered by using the "flower analogy."
8. When you use the flower, the story of reproductive life is told without any sexual images being induced. The flower itself becomes the morally-neutral object that a parent can keep going back to as the child grows older and his or her questions becomes more involved.
9. The Indirect Method is made up of four phases. Each phase is related to the child's age and moral and intellectual level of comprehension. They include the:
 - a. Information Phase: The goal of this phase is to simply start creating a morally neutral fact file that has some general biological facts, but no human sexual implications.
 - b. Curious Phase: You will know you child has advanced to the curiosity phase when they begin to ask those honest, innocent questions, such as: "Mommy, how does the baby get into your tummy?"

- c. Readiness Phase: “Readiness” refers to actual biological facts needed to help guide your child through the bodily changes that come with puberty.
- d. Comprehensive Phase: Phase Four comes after matters of puberty are settled, and deals with the subtle and not-so-subtle messages associated with a teen’s generative powers. However, here in phase four parents are no longer the primary initiators of conversations, as was the case in the first three phases, but rather take on a resource role. Now you become a responder to their questions.