

Teachable Moments

Instructions: You and your partner/group should choose two teachable moments from the list on this handout. After reading the teachable moment, discuss answers to the three questions written below.

1. You and your child are watching the news on TV. The reporter talks about the family of a 7th grade girl filing a lawsuit against the school district for sexual harassment. A boy at the school has repeatedly made derogatory remarks about the girl's body, especially her breasts.
2. At a recent family gathering, you and your children learn that a family member and her husband are getting a divorce.
3. Your child and his friend are giggling in the bedroom. You open the door to see what's so funny and find them both looking at a naked woman in an encyclopedia.
4. As you are waiting on line at the post office with your 11-year-old son, you notice an FBI "Wanted" poster on the wall. One of the men on the poster is wanted for the rape of three women.
5. You and your child notice two men holding hands at the shopping mall.
6. You hear your 15-year-old daughter talking on the phone with her friend about two of the characters on her favorite TV show. She is talking about how the two characters had sex in the last episode.
7. You find a condom in the pocket your son's pants while doing the laundry.
8. While driving home from school one day, your 13-year-old daughter says, "Mom, I heard you can't get pregnant the first time you have sex."
9. Your sister just gave birth to twins.
10. Your mother-in-law is changing the diaper of your six-month-old son. You and your older son are watching her change the diaper. Your mother-in-law gently hits the baby's hand and tells the baby, "Don't touch yourself down there."

Answer the following questions after reading each teachable moment:

- If you were in this situation, how would you start a conversation with your child?
- How does your child's age affect the conversation?
- What value(s) would you want to communicate in this situation? How would you communicate your value(s)?