




From Dr. Seuss to Porn: helping boys and girls navigate a sexually toxic environment

Cordelia Anderson
www.cordeliaanderson.com

← Prevention Continuum →

- Before
 - Change the odds
 - Address the environment; address the demand
 - Address the norms & root causes
- Early Intervention
 - Skills to respond (target)
 - Assessment & effective response to SBP
 - Bystanders
- After
 - Sex offender management or violent/aggressive beh.
 - Victim centered, restorative/transformatve practices
 - Treatment




Gender socialization
 SV frequency
 Hyper-sexualized media
 Lack of sexual health messages

We live in a sexually toxic/pornified society.

Talking About It, Cordelia Anderson, 2001



What is "Normalization"?

- ▶ The process by which an idea or behavior goes from clearly problematic to:
 - *an accepted part of societal culture.*
 - Then "just the way it is" "just what people do."
- ▶ Once indoctrinated & barriers removed, it's viewed as beneficial or preferential & then NOT Questioned

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Children are physically developing Younger

- Impact of puberty on child
- Once child **appears** more developed response of individuals and culture



PHO: Michael Cooper/21

Dr. David Walsh



- ▶ The neurons that fire together wire together
- Whatever the brain does a lot of, the brain gets good at

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To Develop in *Healthy* Ways Children Need *Constructive* Supports

Supportive Families & Communities

Quality Information & Education

Protective Factors/Assets

Supports for Adults to Raise Them

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What Do Children & Teens Get?

Pornography

Technology

Marketing & Commercialization

Hyper-sexualized mainstream media

A ready diet of toxic messages

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The Good, The Bad & The Confusing Impacts

Web babies

Average 7.5/day hours screen time

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Social Networking Sites

- Adolescents experimenting with trying on identities
- Need to be noticed, add “friends”
- How does a girl get attention or get noticed in a sexually toxic, pornified culture?
- Groomed to ‘self objectify’ or ‘self exploit’
- Discuss Impact of: Digital Footprint & how others interpret or respond to images

Additional Resource: **Growing Up Online PBS**

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Cyberbullying

- ▶ Sex & Bullying link
- ▶ Risk not so much the “Adult Predator” But youth presentation of self & their behavior with other youth
- ▶ “Real world” & Cyber link
 - “Growing Up on Line” PBS
 - “amplify and accelerate the hurt and pain”
- ▶ Solution not blocking it all but teaching students how to navigate their world (cyber and otherwise)

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APA cont.

a person is sexually objectified —that is, made into a thing for others’ sexual use, rather than seen as a person with the capacity for independent action and decision making; and/or sexuality is inappropriately imposed upon a person.

<http://www.apa.org/pi/wpo/sexualization/sum.html>

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Studies show that boys see their first porn at age 11.



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There a blurring of lines between legal adult pornography and illegal child pornography

- barely legal
- fresh
- new in town

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Prevention is Possible



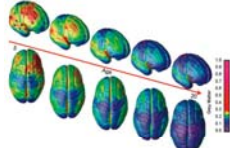
Anything is Possible

The challenges may appear overwhelming but hopelessness & inaction don't create social change
Prevention Action Does!

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Take Back Sexuality
Understand "Brain" truths

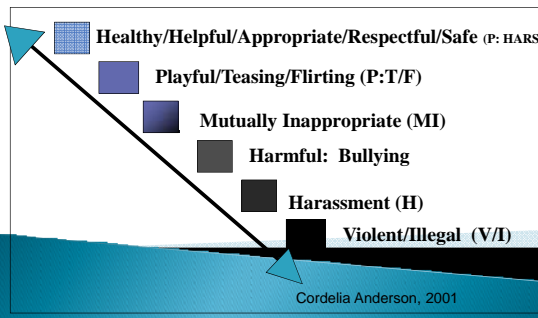


- ▶ Young persons brain not good at LT risk assessment
- ▶ Brains job is survival
- ▶ Thinking brain of young person is just fine; but the risk assessment and impulse control is still under construction
- ▶ <http://tinyurl.com/22uf5sv> (Dr. David Walsh)

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The Sexual Behavior Continuum



Healthy/Helpful/Appropriate/Respectful/Safe (P: HARS)

Playful/Teasing/Flirting (P:T/F)

Mutually Inappropriate (MI)

Harmful: Bullying


Harassment (H)

Violent/Illegal (V/I)

Cordelia Anderson, 2001

Talk, Listen, Connect: Be the Adult Parent

- ▶ Blame Me – Set Limits – with media, tech and life
- ▶ Help sons & daughters build strengths
- ▶ Help children understand normal–Lies;
- ▶ Love & Intimacy & Caring connections



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Engage – Not Blame Parents – Build on Strengths




Julie Gale:
www.kf2bk.com

What actions make it easier NOT harder for parents?

PCA : PreventionWorks 4 08
 see www.cordeliaanderson.com

Dad's story....


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Messages to Children

- ▶ Point out the harms and manipulations of media messages; hence the need to LIMIT
- ▶ Brain & physical development
- ▶ Teach not to perpetrate any acts of sexual harm
- ▶ Teach to speak up/out against such behaviors & practices
- ▶ Teach skills to minimize their risk (those that perpetrate are the reason/not the targets)

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Take back our & our children's sexuality



- ▶ "Sex Sells," Not an excuse
- ▶ Adult's have responsibility
- ▶ It may be just the way it is; but it's not the way it should be.
- ▶ Children's health is not for sale!

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For More Information

[Canadian Centre for Child Protection
\[www.protectchildren.ca\]\(http://www.protectchildren.ca\)](http://www.protectchildren.ca)

Community Child Abuse Council of Canada
 (905) 523-1020

Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault
 651-209-9993 ; Toll-Free: 1-800-964-8847
www.mncasa.org;

Cordelia Anderson,
www.cordeliaanderson.com;

MN Men's Action Network
www.menaspeacemakers.org/programs/action;

Stop Porn Culture
www.stoppornculture.org;

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