

RAISING ETHICAL SONS

TALKING ABOUT CONSENT

Most young men know that 'no' means 'no' – but 22% don't. By having clear and open conversations about consent with your children, you can help challenge the misconceptions that make sexual assault so common.



Working to end sexual assault and domestic violence



Why do we need to talk about consent?

Negative gender stereotypes teach young men that women exist for their pleasure and that men are entitled to women's time and bodies.

In our culture and in the media, young people are taught that when a woman says 'no' to a man, she really means 'try harder', 'keep pursuing me and I'll eventually give in'. Men are taught to not take 'no' for an answer.

78% of young men know that when a woman says 'no', she means 'no'.¹

Together, we can make it 100%.

“Whether it's tea or sex, consent is everything.”

'Tea and Consent' is a great short video that explains consent. You can find it on YouTube [here](#).



The key ideas that you want your children to learn about consent are:

- Never assume you have consent – always ask.
- When a girl or woman says 'no', she really means no.
- Just because a girl or woman hasn't said 'no', this does not mean that she has given consent.
- All sexual activity needs to be something that everybody involved is happy and excited to take part in.
- When engaging in any sexual activity, you should 'check in' with your partner to ensure that they are happy with what's happening.
- Saying yes to one sexual act does not mean consent for another.
- Saying yes to a sexual act at one point in time, does not mean consent for that sexual act at any other point in time in the future.
- Girls do not owe you sex – even if you treat her nicely, pay for dinner, or if you have already started having consensual sex. She always has the right to say 'no' or 'stop' at any point.

It is never okay to pressure, coerce, or guilt anyone into doing anything they do not want to do.

SOURCES

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