

Book 2 of the Learning about Sex Series

The titles in the series:

Book 1: Why Boys and Girls Are Different

Book 2: Where Do Babies Come From?

Book 3: How You Are Changing

Book 4: Sex and the New You

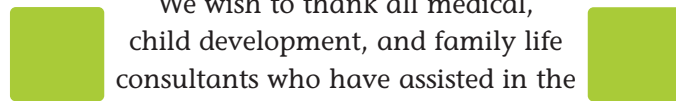
Book 5: Love, Sex, and God

Book 6: How to Talk Confidently with Your Child about Sex



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From text originally written by Ruth Hummel

Illustrations by Janet McDonnell

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Editor's Foreword

This book is one of a series of six designed to help parents communicate biblical values to their children in the area of sexuality. *Where Do Babies Come From?* is the second book in the series. It is written especially for girls ages 7 to 9 and, of course, for the parents, teachers, and other concerned grown-ups who will read the book to the child. (See the “Note to Grown-ups” on the next page for suggestions on using the book and ways to communicate Christian values in sex education in the home.)

Like its predecessor, the new Learning about Sex series provides information about the social-psychological and physiological aspects of human sexuality. Moreover, it does so from a distinctively Christian point of view, in the context of our relationship to the God who created us and redeemed us in Jesus Christ. The series presents sex as another good gift from God that is to be used responsibly.

Each book in the series is graded—in vocabulary and in the amount of information it provides. It answers the questions that persons at each age level typically ask.

Because children vary widely in their growth rates and interest levels, parents and other concerned adults will want to preview each book in the series, directing your child to the next graded book when she is ready for it.

In addition to reading each book, you can use them as starting points for casual conversation and when answering other questions a child might have.

This book can also be used as a mini-unit or as part of another course of study in a Christian school setting. Whenever the book is used in a classroom setting, it is important to let the parents know beforehand, since they have the primary responsibility for the sex education of their children. If used in a classroom setting, the books are designed for separate single-gender groups, the setting most conducive to open conversations about questions and concerns.

While parents will appreciate the help of the school, they will want to know what is being taught. As the Christian home and the Christian school work together, Christian values in sex education can be more effectively strengthened.

The Editors

A Note to Grown-ups

In story form, this book answers questions about sexuality that seven- to nine-year-olds typically ask—or wonder about. Many children this age will have difficulty reading the book on their own. So *do* plan to enjoy reading it *with* your child. Depending on her interest, read all of it at one time, or read one chapter at a time.

Make it just another book that you enjoy reading to or with your child at the usual times when you read together. Once you've read it, of course, you may want to read it again—next month or even next year, when your child is at a different developmental level and able to absorb more of the content.

Take your time as you read, expanding on the text when your child asks for further information. Most of all, use the occasion to wonder at the beauty and design of God's good gift of sexuality. After all, what we're most interested in is building in your child a reverent, wholesome, responsible attitude about human conception and birth. We want to communicate not only truthful and accurate information about sexuality, but especially a deep appreciation of God's marvelous design and purpose, and a sense of respect and responsibility toward all God has given. "God made me a girl—and His creation is wonderful!"

Here are five easy-to-remember guidelines (each beginning with a C) to keep in mind as you answer questions:

1. *Commend* your child for coming to you and for asking, especially if the question makes you uneasy! You want to keep the channels of communication open.

2. *Clarify* the question: "When you ask, 'Where do babies come from?' do you mean, 'How do they grow?' "

3. *Communicate* with simple, direct answers.

4. *Connect* your answer to what your child already knows (or thinks she knows): "Remember what you learned about . . . ? That will help you understand that . . ."

Also, you may want to connect your child's question to other aspects of growing up, thereby avoiding the danger of isolating sex from the wider background of life in general.

5. *Care* must be taken to warn your child about the possibilities of abuse. You might want to work this into a discussion of appropriate behavior. "Your body belongs to you—including those private parts that your swimming suit covers. You don't show those parts or touch them in public. And other people should not touch your private parts either. No one has a right to do that unless it's a nurse or a doctor helping you to be well or someone who cares for you helping you to be clean. If anyone does touch your private parts, be sure to tell me. I want to keep you safe."

6. *Christ* Himself is with us and is guiding us in what we say and what we model about relationships. Share with your child: "Isn't it wonderful that Jesus, God's own Son, was born as a baby? He grew up—just as we do. So He knows what it's like when we feel lonely or afraid. He always did what was right—and He died on a cross—to pay for our sins. Now we can be sure that God, our Father, forgives us. And we can be glad that Jesus is there to help us grow as God's loving children."



Alisa Has a Birthday

Alisa was seven years old today. She could hardly wait to get home from school.

Her dad, her mom, and her grandma were all waiting. Grandma always came over when there was a birthday or something else special.

"You need me to help you celebrate, don't you?" she said with a wink. Alisa agreed as she gave her a hug. Then she saw her birthday cake.

"O-o-oh, it's cool!" she said. And it was! It had seven candles. With the family gathered around, she opened her presents. There was a set of dressed-up dolls, a pair of skates, the game she had wished for, and tickets to go to the park today.

"How did everyone know just what I wanted?" Alisa wondered. "They must know me pretty well."

After Alisa blew out the candles, her dad picked her up and gave her a big hug. Alisa giggled when she got her breath.

"Look how big our girl is getting, Mother," Dad said. "Do you still remember how she looked seven years ago today?"

