

Sex Education for Children: A Parent-Church Partnership

North Central District of The Christian and Missionary Alliance
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The Need

Today's children are inundated with all kinds of information and messages about sex. These messages subtly, yet creatively capture their attention and create "seed thoughts" in their minds that will ultimately influence the development of their views on sexuality. This reality leads us to an important question for parents and the church: **Where will our children get trustworthy, God-honoring information regarding their sexuality, and from whom?** Will they merely get it by default from a "values-neutral" society through TV shows, movies, and the internet; from peer talk in the neighborhood, school or locker room; from a secular sex education program from the public school OR will they get it from loving Christian parents who have been properly equipped and resourced by the church?

The Partnership

While Christian parents are meant to be the primary sex educators of their children, it is imperative that the church come alongside parents in equipping them and providing resources that will help them get the job done.

The Resource

God's Design for Sex series

Authors: Stan and Brenda Jones, Carolyn Nystrom

Publisher: NavPress

The *God's Design for Sex* series contains a thorough, well-written parents' guide plus four age-graded books covering ages 3-14. While the parents' guide is "for parents only", the age-graded books are designed for parents to use in a one-on-one manner with their children. Each book provides straight talk about various issues of sexuality that arise at given age-levels and is done respectfully, appropriately and from a solid Christian perspective. This series provides a clear Biblical base, including chapter and verse, for helping parents shape the sexual character of their children.

Suggested Guidelines

Minimal Standard:

1. It is highly recommended that every church have at least one set of the *God's Design for Sex* series available for parents to preview and/or checkout for *personal use*. *Books should only be available through the church office and not placed on open church library shelves.*

2. Through appropriate and timely means, keep parents informed about the availability of this quality sex education resource.
3. Provide parents with a copy of the *God's Design for Sex* series review produced by the North Central District Office of The Christian and Missionary Alliance. This review is available on the district website at <http://www.ncdcma.org/>.

Recommended Standard:

4. Offer an occasional small group for parents where the Parents' Guide would be used for guided discussion and the four age-graded books could be introduced. Such a small group would need an appropriate and qualified leader/facilitator. Such a group could become a part of your regular adult small group curriculum plan or provided as needed, based on church size and congregational make-up.

Very Helpful Standard:

5. Have books readily available for parents to purchase as needed or at least connect them to a trustworthy supplier like NextStep Resources in Minneapolis, MN (800.444.2665) who has a ready supply available.