

Answering Tough Questions

1. Reassure the child that it is good to ask questions.
2. Find out what the child thinks or is really asking.
3. Decide what “messages” you want to give.
4. Answer simply, using correct vocabulary.
5. Encourage the child to give you feedback.



Basic Tips for Parents

- It is OK to feel embarrassed.
- It is OK to not know the answer.
- General Rule: If they are asking, they need to know. They will go elsewhere to find the answer.
- Knowledge is NOT harmful. Information is NOT permission.
- Practice answering tough questions...it helps!
- Sometimes you may choose to answer a question later.
- Keep your voice calm and matter-of-fact.
- Watch your body language.
- Simplify your responses.
- Be patient.
- Don't assume that a child's behavior has the same meaning as an adult.