



Give children back their childhood SPUC launches petition

***Give children back their childhood* is the title of a nationwide petition against sexually explicit DVDs in primary schools launched by the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC). SPUC launched the petition on the same day that a website survey revealed 59% of parents with primary-aged children oppose sex education in schools.**

The Babychild website poll on sex education was welcomed by Antonia Tully of Safe at School, a campaign of SPUC which supports and advises parents facing unacceptable sex education in their children's schools (see back page). Mrs Tully said: "The result of this poll fits in entirely with what parents are telling me."

The petition is calling upon the secretary of state for education to protect children from sexually-explicit DVDs. The leaflets supporting the petition point to Channel 4's "Living and Growing" programme for primary schools. (See inside page.) "Living and Growing" is the most-widely used sex education teaching resource in primary schools.



Action point: Use the form below to order copies of the petition and supporting leaflets (see inside)

Help SPUC fight against the sexualisation of children

SPUC's campaign against explicit sex education in the classroom is critical in the fight against the sexualisation of children. Showing primary school children sexually explicit DVDs in the classroom can be as influential as advertising or fashion.



A government review on the sexualisation of children has examined the impact of music videos, retailers selling "Porn star" T-shirts and padded bras for little girls as well as sexually charged advertising aimed at children.

"All of these things are sexualising children," said Antonia Tully of the Safe at School Campaign. "But showing children of 7 years old cartoons of sexual intercourse as part of school sex education must be having an impact too."

Research from the review into the sexualisation of children, released ahead of publication, found that almost nine out of every ten UK parents said that their children aged 5-16 years old, were forced to grow up too quickly.

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children is committed to fighting against explicit SRE in schools because it is inciting young children to become sexually active in their teens, or even before. Illegal, underage sexual activity fuels teenage pregnancies, rising rates of sexually transmitted infections and the tragedy of teenage abortion.

Take action today – order SPUC's FREE campaign material, so that you can:

- Help ban sex DVDs from primary schools through the national petition
- Find out what sex education is being taught in your child's school
- Alert other parents to the dangers of anti-life sex education in schools

Please send me:

- 'Give Children back their Childhood' petition forms 5 20 Other: _____
- Copies of the information leaflet to accompany the petition:
 Strongly worded version 20 50 100 Other: _____
 Mildly worded version 20 50 100 Other: _____
- SPUC's Parliamentary update for me to send to my MP
- SPUC's detailed information pack on SRE
- Further copies of this bulletin 5 50 20 Other: _____

Please print

Title _____ Full name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

*Phone _____

*Email _____

I would like to support SPUC. Please send me details of how I can: Become a member.

Make a donation.

Remember SPUC in my will.

*Please include these if you are happy to be contacted by phone/email

Please return this form to: SPUC, 3 Whitacre Mews, Stannary Street, London SE11 4AB

Take action now to protect children at school

Sex education which incites children to sexual activity



SPUC's nationwide petition (see front page) is calling for an end to sexually explicit DVDs in the classroom. SPUC has produced an information leaflet explaining why we are asking people to sign the petition.

The information leaflet, which carries a "Child Sensitive Information" warning, gives examples from the

extensively used teaching resource, "Living and Growing", produced by Channel 4.

These points appear on the leaflet:

- Children of five are given exercises to identify their sexual organs
- 7- 9 year old children are shown cartoons of how to perform sexual intercourse and told that exploring their sexual organs is pleasurable.
- Primary school children see a cartoon of ejaculation and are told that masturbation is pleasurable and perfectly normal.
- Sex is promoted as a normal topic of conversation for children of 10-11 years old

School sex lessons have failed to curb illegal under-age sex, epidemic rates of sexually transmitted diseases and teenage abortions.

An alternative version of the leaflet is also available with a less explicit description of the Channel 4 series. This is intended for use where it might be difficult to avoid its getting into the hands of children (e.g. when promoting the petition on the high street). Copies of either version of the leaflet, as well as petition forms, are available free of charge.

Action points:

- **Order the SPUC national petition and information leaflets. Use the order form on the front page to request free copies of the petition and leaflets**
- **Write to the Secretary of State for Education and to your MP stating your opposition to graphic sex education in schools**
- **Use the order form on the front page to order an SRE information pack today**

SRE: Get informed and stay ahead

SPUC has a wealth of information on the key issues relating to SRE

1. SPUC informing MPs

MPs need to be aware of the concerns of their constituents and about expert evidence on issues like sex education. SPUC encourages people to contact their own local MPs, and our national office provides research for politicians to use in debates, in challenging ministers and forming national policy.



Action point:

- **MPs were recently sent an "SRE update". If you would like a copy of this to help you take up these issues with your MP, please contact us, or use the order form to request a copy.**

2. SPUC informing parents

Parents of young children are at the sharp end of the SRE debate – their children are at risk. The Safe at School campaign offers parents a guide to staying ahead of SRE in their children's schools.

Action point:

- **Visit the Safe at School campaign page at: www.spuc.org.uk to see a checklist for parents.**

3. SPUC informing the community

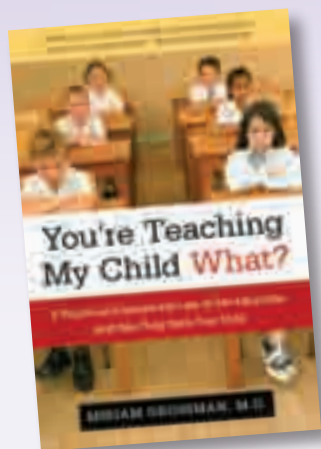
Ordinary people have been shocked when they hear about what young children are being shown in their classrooms. SPUC's regular Campaign Bulletins are engaging them in the debate and in the action.

Action point:

- **Order more copies of this bulletin to give to others. Please use order form on the front page of this bulletin.**

Challenge moves to make sex education compulsory

“You’re Teaching My Child What?”



Dr Miriam Grossman is a child, adolescent and adult psychiatrist who lives and works in Los Angeles. She is also the author of “You’re teaching my child what?” a devastating exposition of the grim reality of sex education in the USA. A reality that is not much different here in the UK.

Indeed some things are worse over here. During

a recent visit to the UK, Dr Grossman was shown clips from the Channel 4 TV series “The Joy of Teen Sex” which left her almost speechless. She told the audience she had seen nothing as bad as that on US television.

Parents and others who are wondering how we come to be showing cartoons of sexual intercourse to seven year old children in British schools should read this book.

“Your Teaching My Child What?” by Miriam Grossman MD is published by Regnery Publishing Inc. ISBN 978-1-59698-544-4



Dr Miriam Grossman

Parents frustrated by obstructive strategies in primary schools

Frustration among parents over the delivery of Sex and Relationships Education in their child’s school runs high during the summer term when many schools teach this subject.

Recently, primary schools have implemented strategies in a blatant attempt to reduce the scope for parents to exercise their legal rights regarding SRE.

One strategy is to transfer the SRE teaching into the science timetable – part of the compulsory National Curriculum. National Curriculum science at primary level covers human reproduction in broad terms. However, the science curriculum is being misused by some primary schools to teach children about genital organs, sexual intercourse, contraception, sexually transmitted infections and same-sex relationships. None of this is stipulated in the science curriculum.

It is even more controversial that some primary schools are using sexually explicit resources such as “Living and Growing” to teach science.

Under this strategy parents are denied the opportunity to withdraw their children from sex lessons which are not acceptable to them.

Another strategy is for schools to drop SRE from the timetable, but then to incorporate SRE topics into cross-curriculum activities, thereby denying parents the opportunity to withdraw their children from lessons which are inappropriate to their age. This is an abuse of the law, an abuse of trust and an abuse of children.

MP wants to end ‘age-appropriate’ safeguard in sex ed lessons

The government’s Education Bill will reform the education system in England and Wales, and some MPs want it to include compulsory sex education.

Chris Bryant MP has introduced a separate bill in Parliament to make sex and relationships education (SRE) compulsory in all state schools. One of the most worrying clauses in the bill is an attempt to remove the existing requirement for the Secretary of State to ensure that sex education is age-appropriate. This would give a green light to teach almost anything of a sexual nature in SRE classes.

As a ‘stand-alone’ bill, Mr Bryant’s proposals are unlikely to become law, but he may try to ‘piggy-back’ his proposals on the Education Bill, to give them a stronger chance of becoming law.



Chris Bryant MP

Action point: Write to your MP asking him/her to oppose compulsory sex education and to support (and enforce) the requirement that sex education should be age-appropriate.

Parents taking action against explicit DVDs

Workshop parents hold public meeting

Parents in Worksop, Nottinghamshire were so distressed about the materials being used to teach sex education in some of their primary schools that they asked Safe at School to address a public meeting to raise awareness of what was happening.

Young mums, dads and grandparents came to a public meeting during which Antonia Tully of the Safe at School campaign showed video clips from the controversial Channel 4, "Living and Growing" teaching programme for primary schools.

"Safe at School was invited to Worksop to show local parents what the schools were not disclosing," said Antonia Tully.

Northampton mums start campaign

Worried mothers in Northampton have started a local campaign to raise awareness about what local primary schools are showing in sex education lessons. Schools there are also using the Channel 4 classroom resource, "Living and Growing" along with the BBC Active Whiteboard materials.

Northampton mum, Emma Clarke, whose six-year-old attends a local primary school said: "In my opinion, showing children this sort of sexual imagery is a form of sexual

abuse. What we are worried about is that the material is showing children how to have sex."

Mrs Clarke went on to say: "There have already been instances of children going home and typing the words they have learnt into their web browsers when they have got home and have brought up all sorts of pornographic material."

Concerned parents filled a public meeting at the Northampton Guild Hall, addressed by Safe at School. One father described how his child had been unable to eat after being shown one of the "Living and Growing" DVDs.

Cuttings from the *Guardian*
Worksop 10 February 2011



Action point: If you would like Safe at School to address a public meeting in your town, please contact Antonia Tully on: 020 8407 3463.

Safe at school – helping parents to protect their children

Safe at School is an SPUC service which gives advice and support to parents who face unacceptable SRE in their children's schools.

Antonia Tully (pictured right) co-ordinates the activities of Safe at School. Antonia is married with five children at school, aged between 9 and 17 years old. You can contact Antonia by emailing safeatschool@spuc.org.uk or by phone on: 020 8407 3463.

Visit the Safe at School campaign webpage at: www.spuc.org.uk to see:

- Checklist of points for parents to find out what is happening in their children's schools.
- Link to view clips of "Living and Growing".
- Press coverage of other parents protesting about *Living and Growing*.

- Share your experience of SRE with other parents.



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