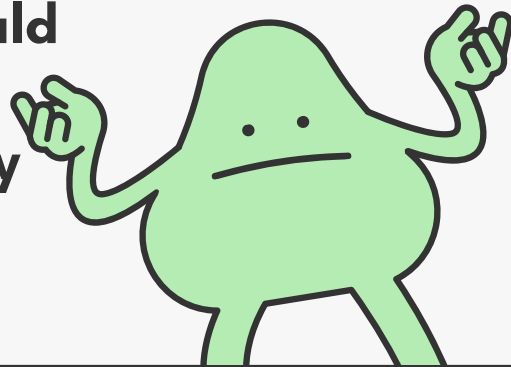


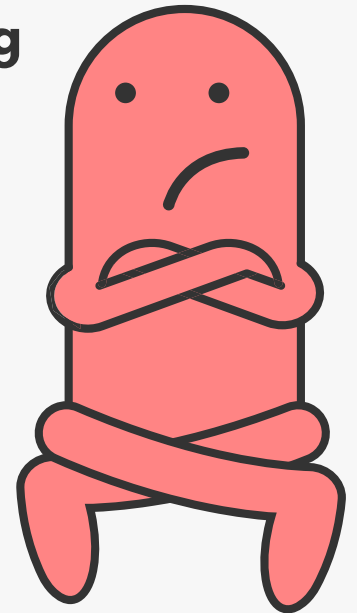
RASHIM & FRIENDS

"pleasure is not gross!"

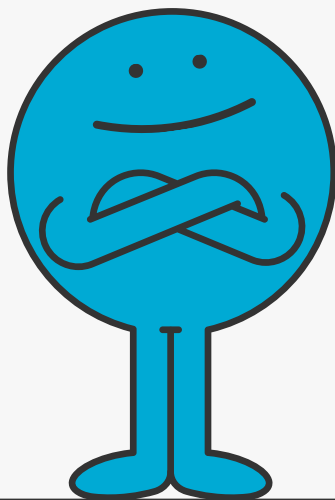
I was watching a movie with my family and at one point two of the characters kiss. When this happened my 7 year old was like "ewwww gross." I chuckled, but I feel like this would have been a good opportunity to teach my kid about pleasure.



Woah! You wanna tell a kid that young about pleasure?! What's next? That's totally inappropriate. Sounds like a good way to mess up your kid.



Wow, good for you for thinking about this for your kid. Pleasure is not a shameful thing to keep from kids.



They have likely experienced it anyways. A conversation would validate their feelings and help them talk about what they find pleasurable without shame. Remember that pleasure and sex are not the same!

Yes!! I don't want my kid to think that pleasure is a bad thing. Plus, if my kid is ashamed of talking with me about what feels good, how could I expect them to share what doesn't feel good?

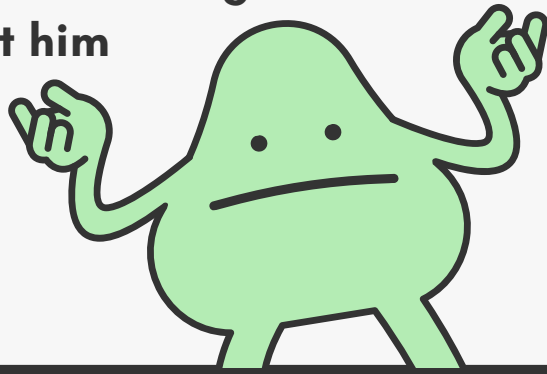


RASHIM & FRIENDS

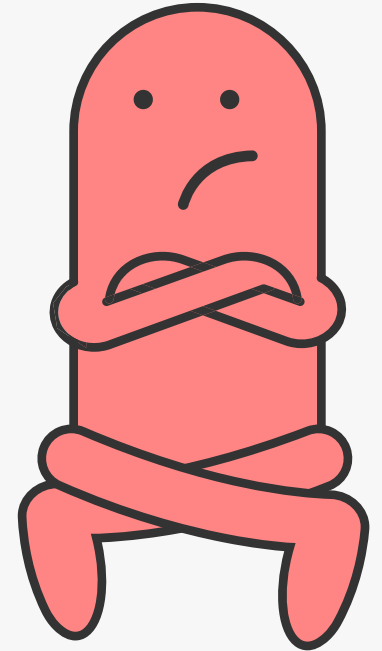
"boys will be boys"

My teenage son is getting older and wants to go to parties all the time. I'm scared about him doing something he is going to regret. I've talked with him about consent and using condoms, but I'm not sure if that's enough.

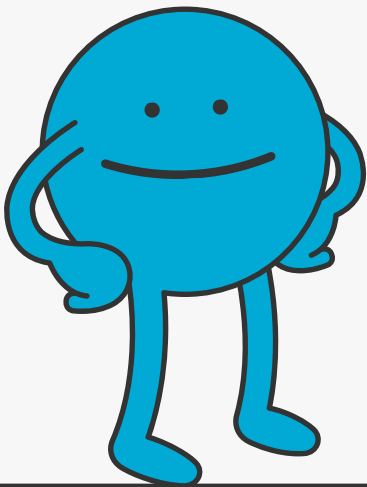
I just don't want him to ever think it's OK to sexually harm a girl.



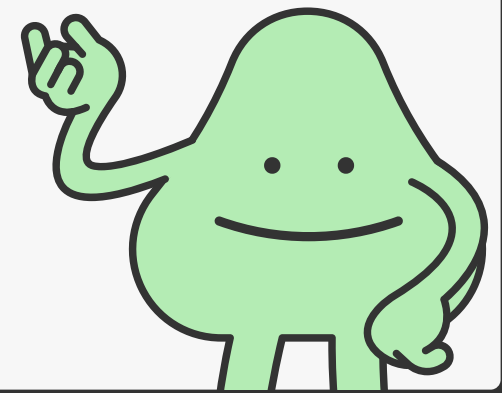
I think your permissive parenting is the problem. Boys will be boys. Good luck thinking that your little talk will overcome his raging teenage hormones.



Okay, let's stop talking about teenage boy hormones like an inevitably destructive force. ALL teenagers experience intensity due to hormonal changes and there is a lot we can do to help them manage this stage of their life. And let's not forget that ALL teenagers can experience sexual harm, AND cause sexual harm.



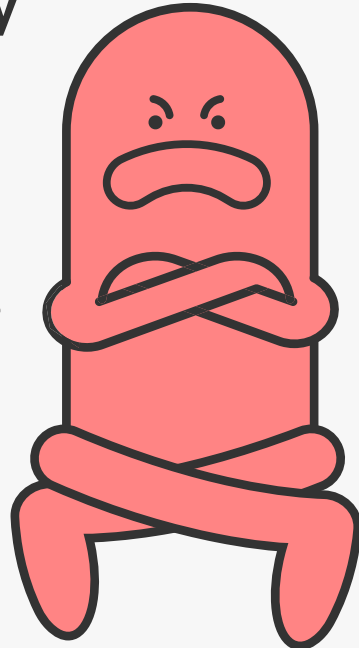
I don't want my son to think he can't be a victim, too. I've never really brought it up with him in that way though. It feels like a lot to talk about, but now I know it's important for him to learn about *mutually safe and consensual body exploration!*



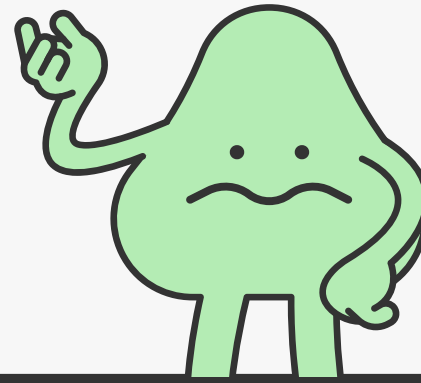
RASHIM & FRIENDS

"young people & abortion"

I don't know where my kid has learned this stuff about "abortion rights", as if anyone should have the right to end a life. Expense and inconvenience doesn't justify abortions. It's just wrong to be OK with abortions!



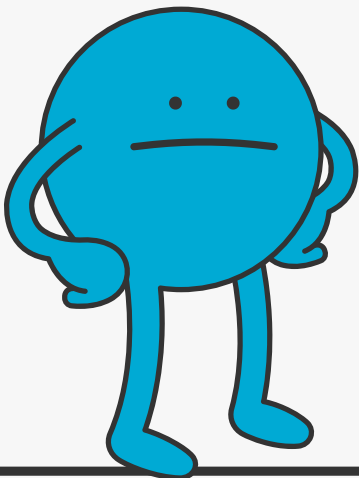
Well...does rape and sexual assault justify abortions? You gotta admit we can't just ban all abortions. Maybe your kid has a point?



That's just an excuse. Kids need to learn to value life above all!

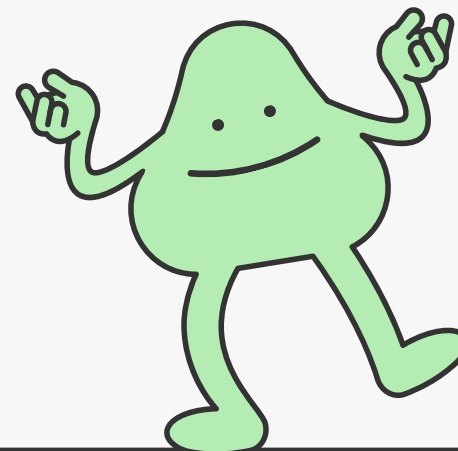


Alright, let's stop trying to get people on our side by focusing on rape as the reason against banning abortions. Instead, we can agree that fewer abortions are better!

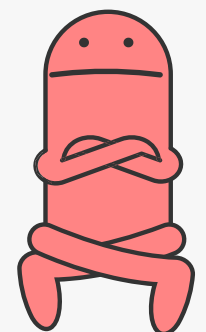


Pregnant people are always going to need or *want* an abortion. What kids need is better education about their health & reproduction, and also the value of *their* life to self-determine!

Honestly, I am proud of young people today for learning so quickly that nobody gets to take their bodily autonomy away!



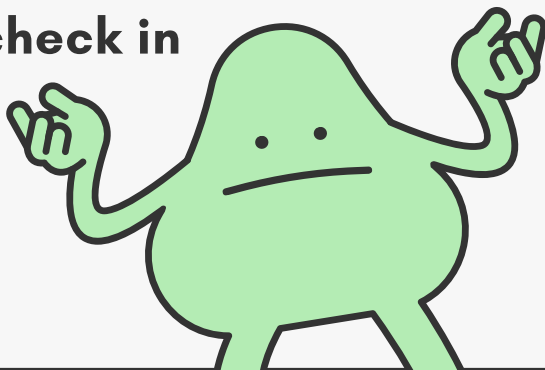
hmph...



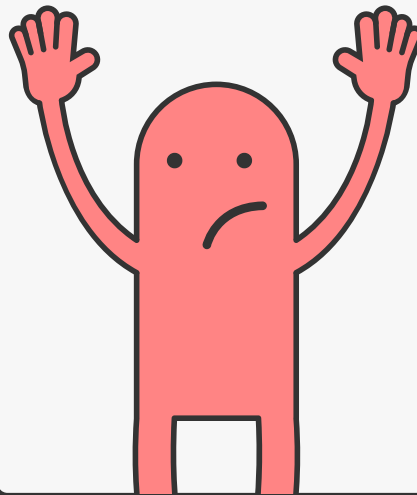
RASHIM & FRIENDS

"boundaries that hurt"

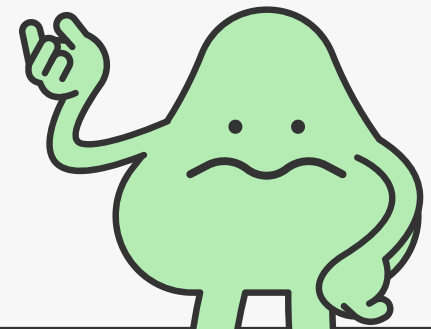
I have this friend who keeps bringing up their relationship issues when we hang out. I realized this was making me frustrated and not excited to want to hang out as much. So I communicated a boundary to check in with me first. Am I being an asshole?



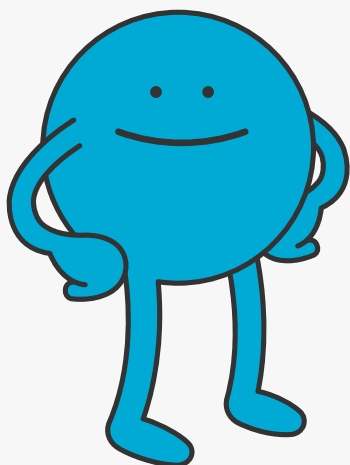
Chatting about relationships issues is what friends are for. Obviously, your friend needs your support and now you have hurt their feelings.



But...I was feeling like not wanting to be around them, let alone giving them support...

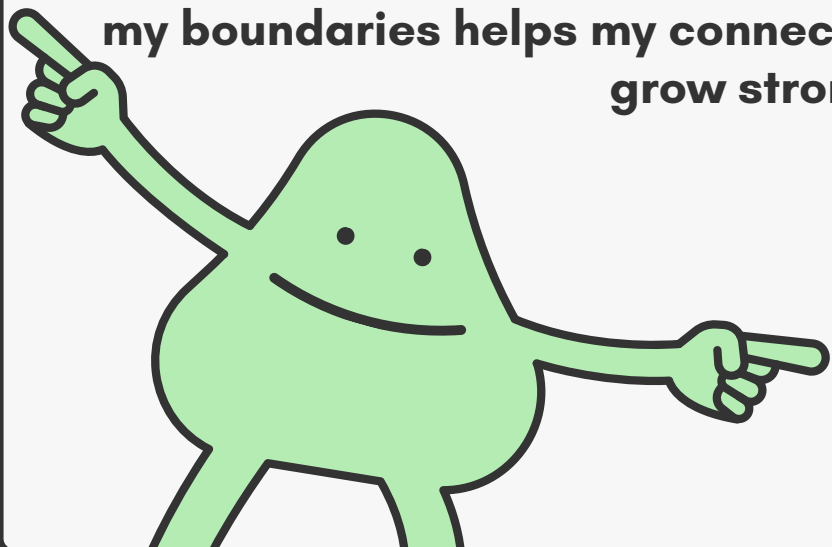


Communicating boundaries sometimes hurts people's feelings, but that's OK. Let your friend work out their own feelings. It's a part of their process.



Feeling a bit guilty after setting boundaries is normal. But guess what? If your friend is able to honor this boundary, you will end up closer and more excited to hang out.

Whew! This makes sense. I was feeling silly and now I understand that even though it's hard to do, communicating my boundaries helps my connections grow stronger.



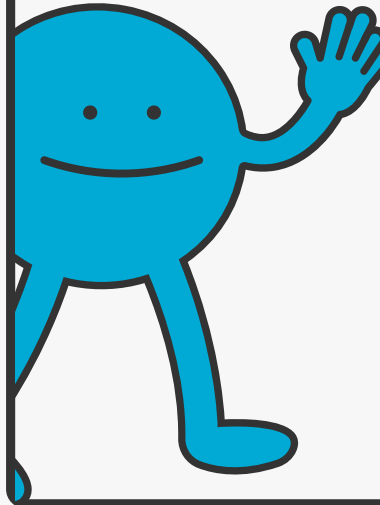
RASHIM & FRIENDS

"bloody situations"

My ten-year-old son found my daughter's menstrual pad in the trash, because she didn't wrap it well. Now, he thinks someone is hurt and won't let go no matter how much I tell him it's none of his business.

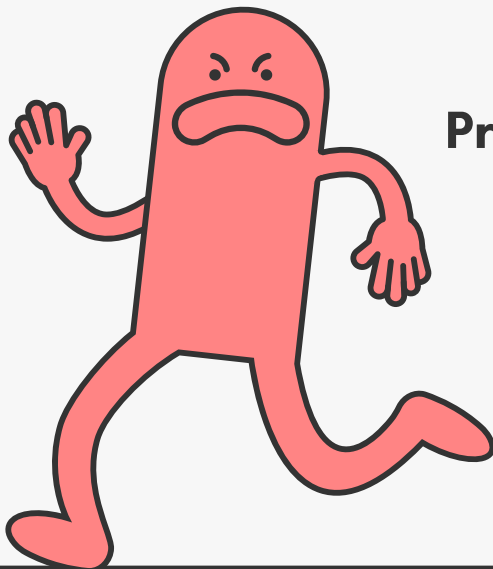


That sounds like a difficult situation for you, your son, AND your daughter. But it doesn't have to be.

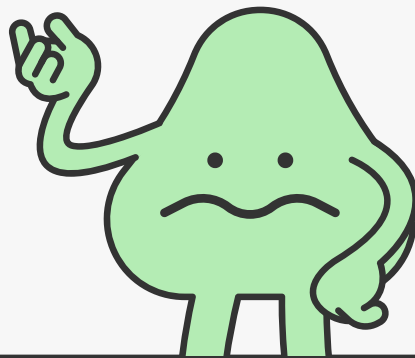


Hiding the truth from your son is missing an opportunity for education, but also it sends the message that menstruation is a shameful matter.

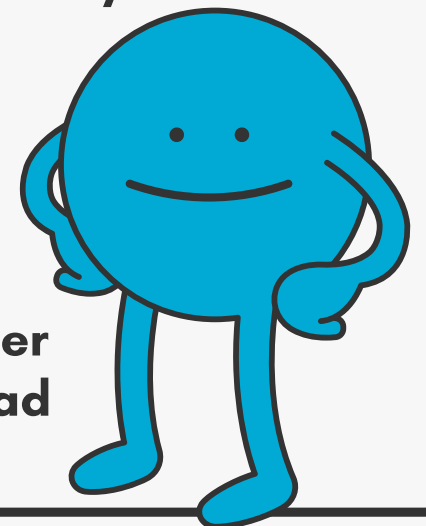
You are no help, I am trying to protect my kid!!



Protect from what?



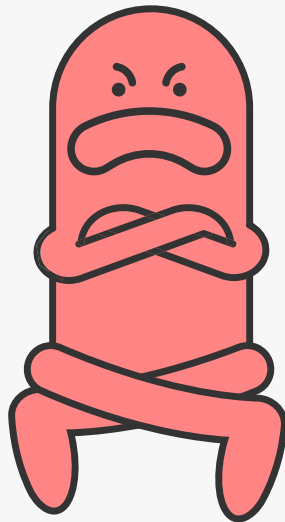
The awkwardness of these situations are manufactured by your own shame. You can normalize menstruation by teaching ALL of your kids about puberty. Then they'll get to support each other and not be afraid of silly things like whether they wrapped their pad well enough.



RASHIM & FRIENDS

"slutty clothes"

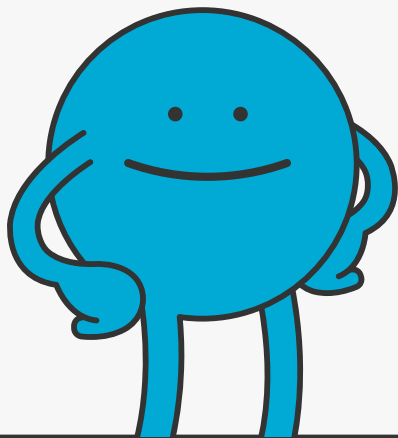
I can't believe parents who let their teens wear these slutty clothes. They make it harder for the rest of us to do our job raising good kids.



I don't know... every time I try to warn my daughter about why her fashion choices make her and us look bad, she gets really upset with me. Not to mention the danger she is putting herself in by attracting that kind of attention.



Teens, like us, need to feel agency over their body. Forcing teens to dress according to your rules WILL take away their right to autonomy.



As an adult, you can manage your shame and fear internally, instead of putting the burden on your teen by controlling how they dress.

I AM scared that my baby is growing up, but I think sharing my feelings openly is more helpful. I can talk about safety without making it my teen's responsibility to prevent harm, and letting her find agency as she considers safety.



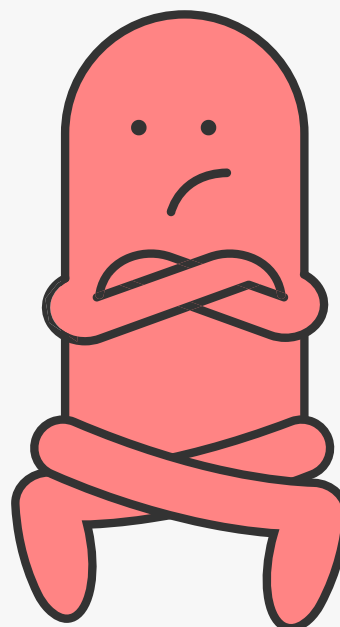
RASHIM & FRIENDS

"love"

I've been exploring love and intimacy in my friendships and feel more fulfilled than I have in a long time. I finally found a form of love that works for me!

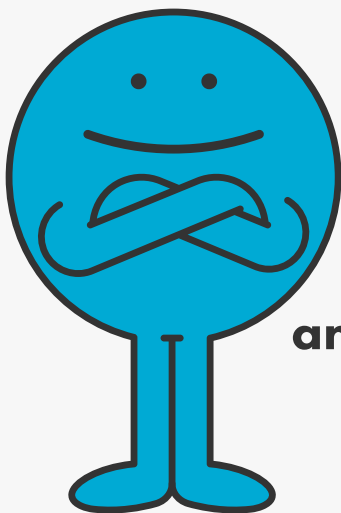


Meh. Friendships can be great, but you can't give up on real love. You haven't felt love until you find someone you wanna marry and have kids with. Don't ruin your future with this friendship talk.



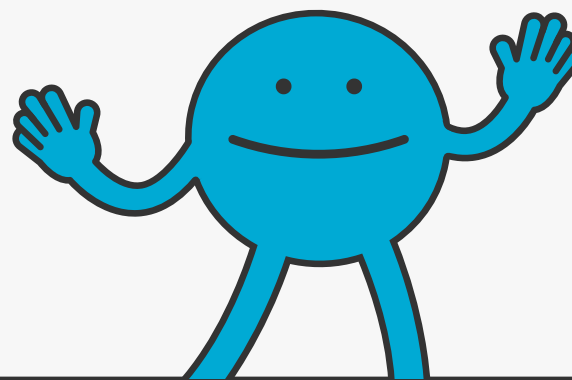
Marriage and reproduction has always been more about survival than love.

Truth is, "real love" and intimacy are abundant in all kinds of relationships, and we get to experience them with whomever we want.



So, let's celebrate your loving relationships, no matter what they are called!

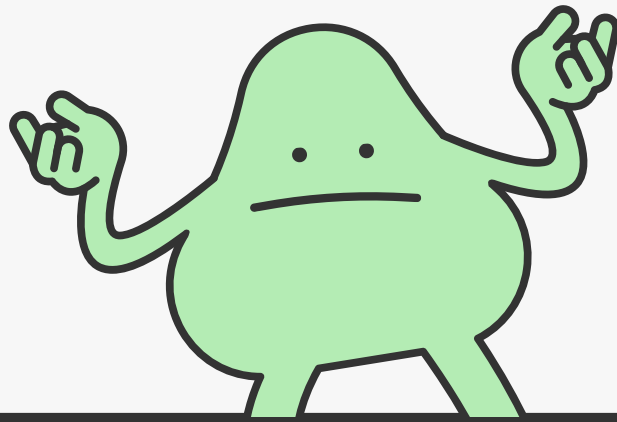
Daymmn, validation feels sooo good!



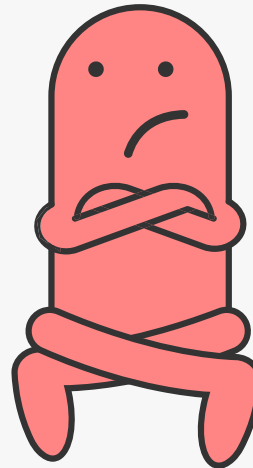
RASHIM & FRIENDS

"dropping hints"

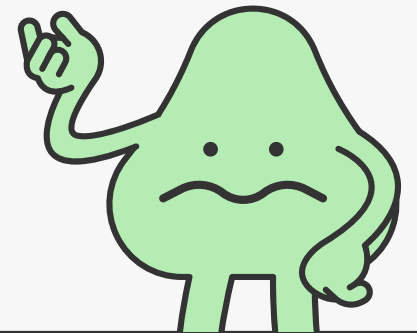
I keep dropping hints to my partner that I need longer foreplay, but they aren't catching on. I guess we're not sexually compatible.



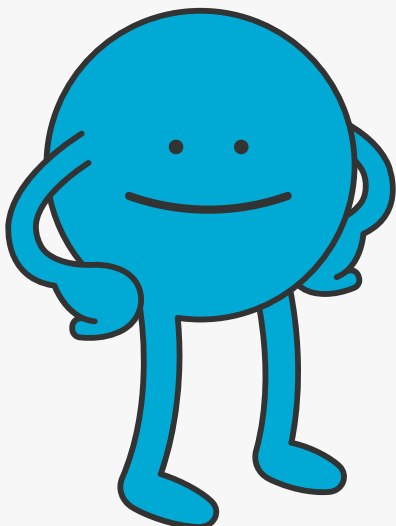
Damn, every good partner knows foreplay is important. Maybe your partner isn't the "one" if they don't get it.



Right, I shouldn't have to spell out everything.

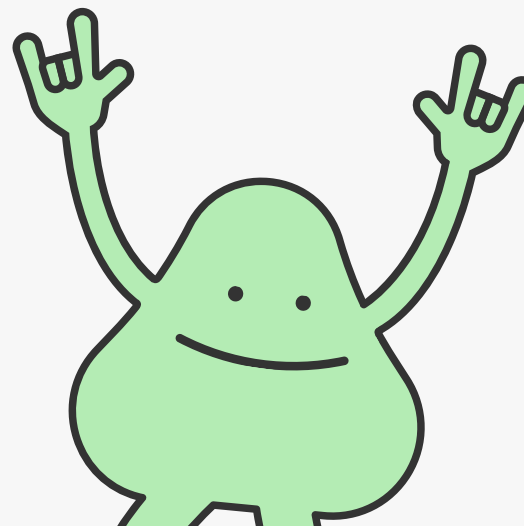


Have you tried explicitly asking for what you need, instead of dropping hints?



It's OK to voice your needs and desires out loud. No partner is a mind-reader and it's unfair to expect people to just know what you want based on vague cues.

I didn't want to sound needy by asking directly. But I'm glad I gave my partner a chance,

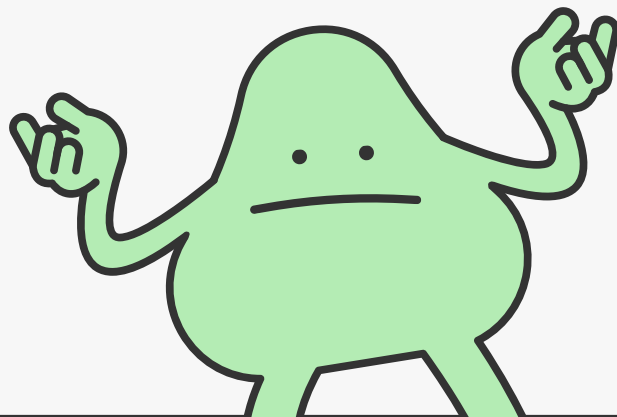


because they were happy to do longer foreplay and now I feel closer and more connected to them!

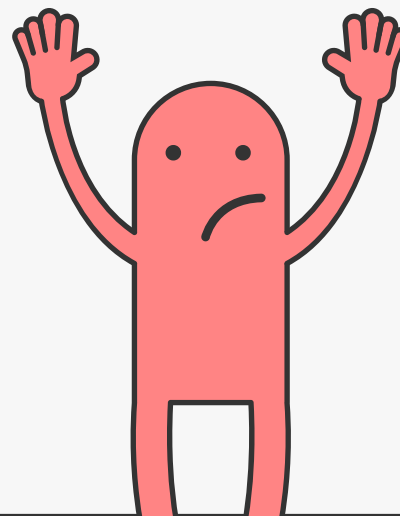
RASHIM & FRIENDS

"mistake"

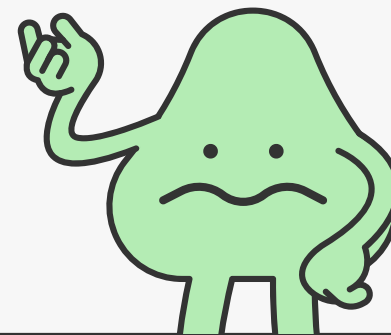
I think I hurt my friend by giving unsolicited advice. Now, they are upset. I don't know what to do.



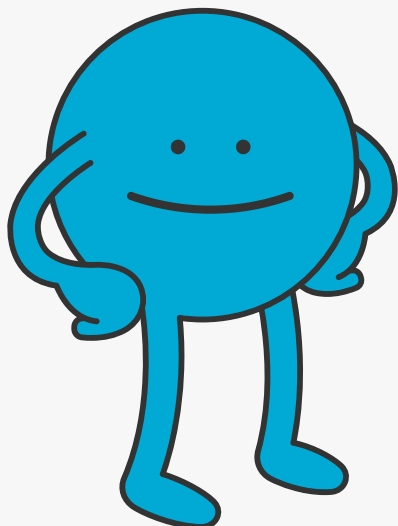
What's there to be upset about? You meant well. You were trying to help.



But...maybe I should repair the situation?!

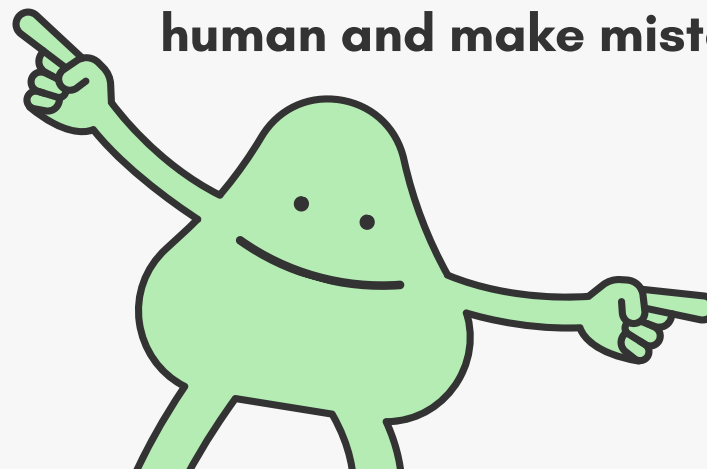


It's hard to admit you made a mistake, especially when your intentions are good.



Making mistakes is necessary for growing. A sincere apology and clarifying boundaries deepen the relationship.

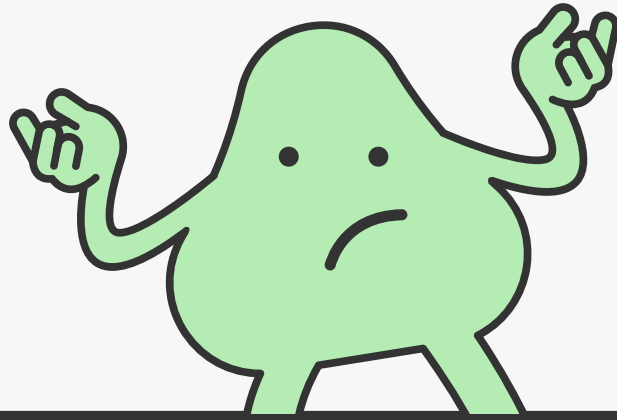
I was afraid if I admitted wrongdoing, my friend would think less of me. But, honestly, I am realizing I need friends who let me be human and make mistakes!



RASHIM & FRIENDS

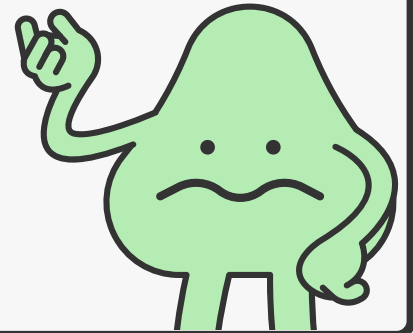
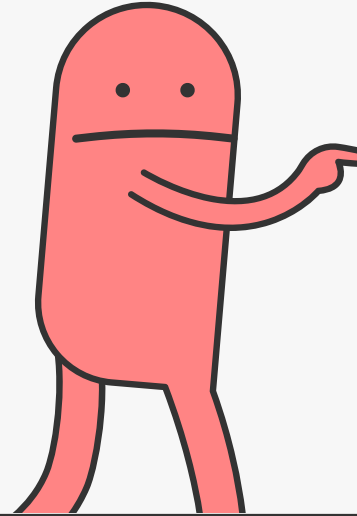
"body exploration"

I walked in on my kid masturbating and I gasped and left immediately. Things have been awkward since.

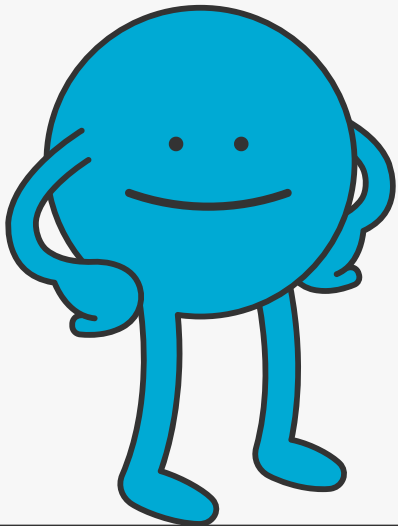


It's best not to acknowledge this kind of thing and teach them better morals!

I know, I really thought my kid wasn't gonna be like that...

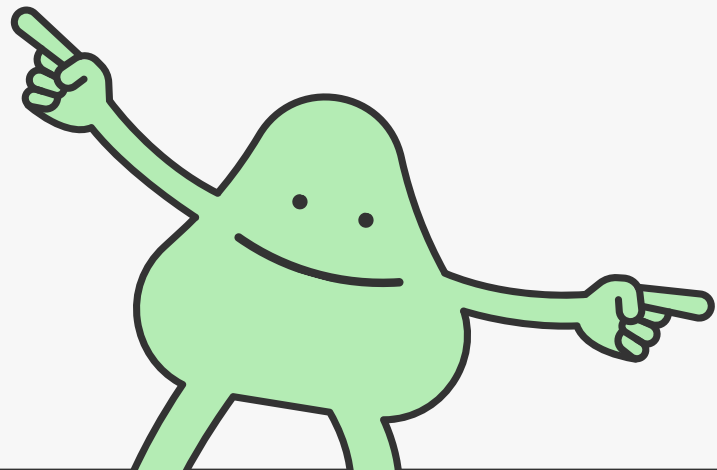


OR, teach your child about their body and that masturbation is a private act but not a shameful one.



Ignoring the issue only adds to shame and awkwardness.

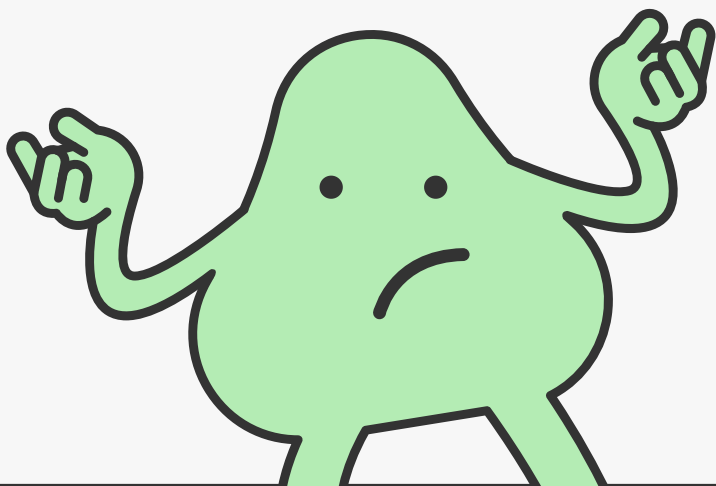
Honestly, I feel the shame myself, but I don't want my kid to feel that way. It's a difficult conversation but I can do it!



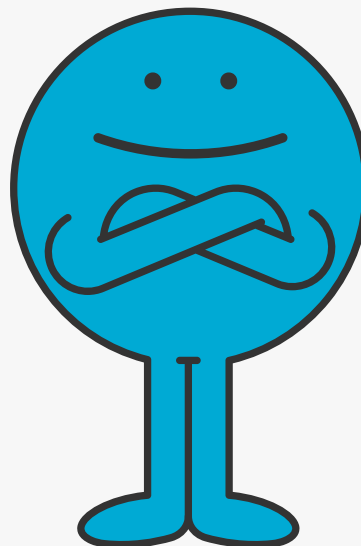
RASHIM & FRIENDS

"too young"

Ughhh, my 4-year-old just asked me where babies come from...



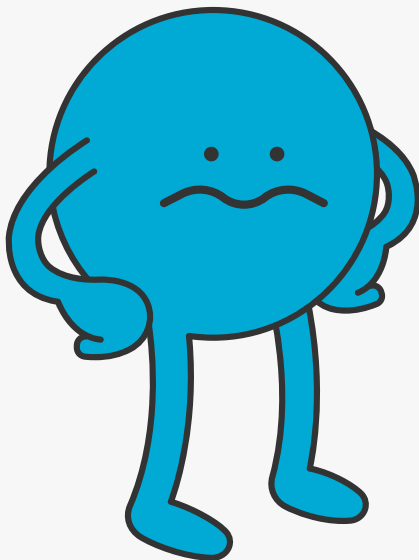
Oh, this is a great opportunity to tell them about it!



STOP! Don't say anything yet. They are too young!



How about we allow for curiosity?



There is always a way to provide appropriate information to a child to satisfy their curiosity and invite more inquiry.

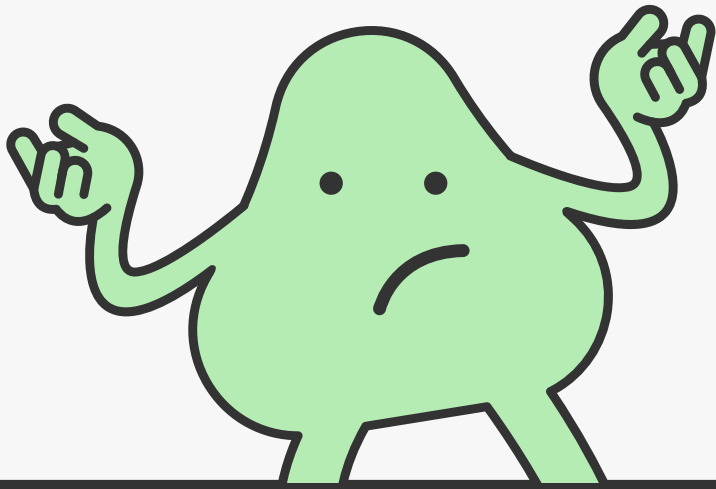
Thanks! I definitely want my child to remain curious so I can help them figure out how to learn good information.



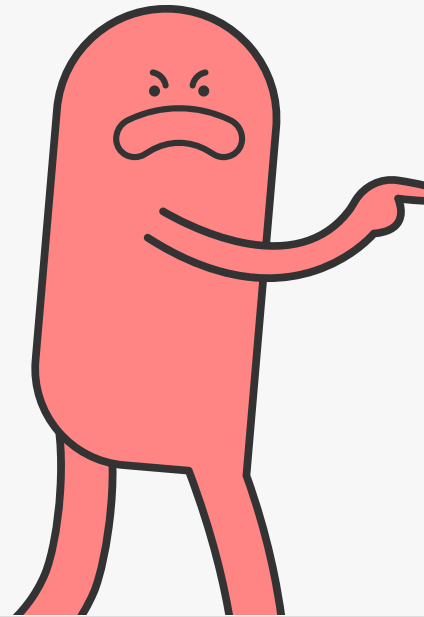
RASHIM & FRIENDS

"fake feminist"

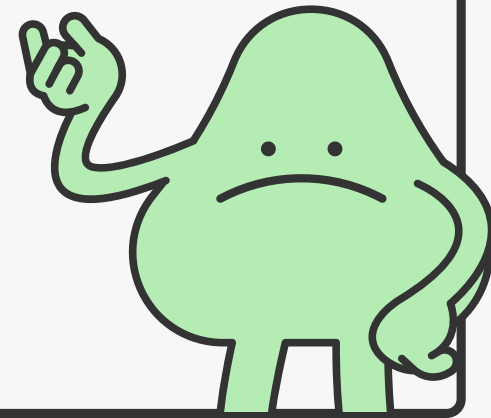
Sometimes I fantasize about sexual violence.



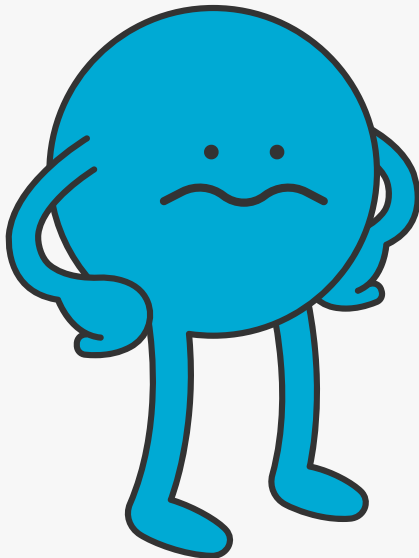
Aha! Fake feminist over here!



I guess I am a bad feminist?!



How about we don't police fantasies?

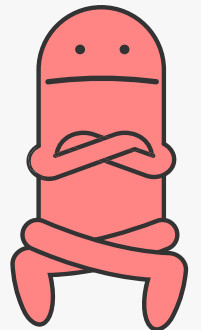


None of us can control what happens in our minds. Instead of judging, we can observe and learn from fantasies!

I don't know why I have these fantasies, but I don't need the shame!

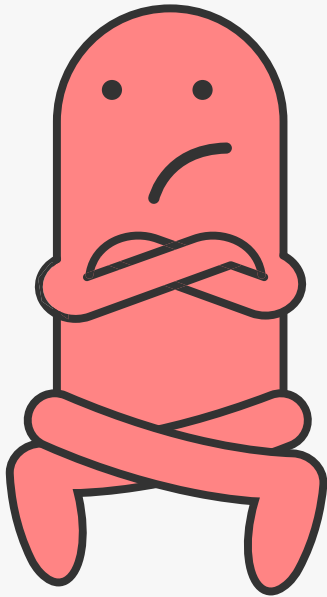


hmph...



RASHIM & FRIENDS

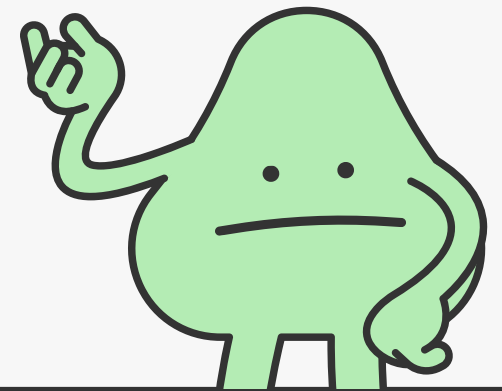
"all these non-binary kids"



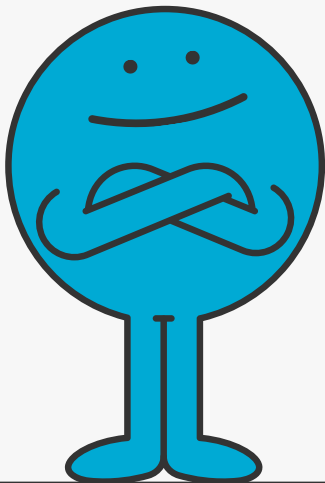
What's up with all these non-binary kids these days? You can tell it's a fad because they can't even make up their mind and keep changing identities and labels.

Idk, I'm not sure about my identity either. Sometimes I don't like using any gendered language at all, but then other times I enjoy being referred to with masculine terms and pronouns.

I don't mean to make light of anyone's identity though...



Look, it is normal for kids to explore and play with gender. We are just seeing the process more openly now.



Some people land on a fixed identity, but others continue on a never-ending journey of exploring gender. All of these experiences are valid and part of human nature at any age.

Yes! I shouldn't have to justify my gender to anyone, and neither should kids. Identity & behavior don't have to always match anyways. Those who care about me value my explorations instead of dismissing them as a 'fad'!

I'm outta here!

