

27 July 2009

For immediate release

"Where do I start?"

"Testicles? I thought only dogs had testicles."

"When will I get my hair?"

"How did that baby get inside my mummy's belly?"

For those who have had any extended contact with young children in an educational or guardian capacity, questions like those above will be of no surprise. Part of young children's innocence provides humorous anecdotes for parents, educators and other guardians but such queries also raise a serious question for adults in charge of children's education, care and development - **"where do I start?"** How does an adult educator go about answering such questions in a way that is age appropriate, healthy and uncomplicated?

To assist adults to respond positively to children's curiosity, questions and behaviour, Family Planning Queensland (FPQ), with the support of Early Childhood Australia Inc and the Queensland Government's [Gambling] Community Benefit Fund, have developed the resource **"where do I start?"** - Supporting healthy sexual development in early childhood. This resource includes a packaged DVD and guide and has been designed specifically to assist early childhood professionals and service providers with creating a healthy secure environment in which children may learn about bodies, relationships and being safe. The **"where do I start?"** resource will be **launched** at a special screening on **Thursday, 30 July 2009 from 10.30am to 12.00pm at the C & K Central Office, 14 Edmondstone Street, Newmarket.**

As adults, we often stumble when faced with an honest, straight forward question about sexuality or bodily development under the gaze of innocently inquiring eyes. Answering children's questions about their bodies in a simple, positive and honest manner will contribute to equipping children with vital knowledge appropriate for each child's needs, age and continued good health. This resource is developed by experts from the early childhood sector to appropriately respond to young children's inquiries about their sexual development and sexuality. It encourages early childhood professionals to feel confident and comfortable with supporting children's healthy sexual development.

The **"where do I start?"** guide contains information and tips for incorporating sexuality education into the everyday care and education of children. The **"where do I start?"** DVD contains information about ways to support young children's healthy development and demonstrates appropriate positive responses to children's questions.

ENDS

For further information, to arrange an interview with the authors or to obtain details about the launch, please contact **Claire Simpson** on **07 3250 0240** or csimpson@fpq.com.au.

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