SEXOLOGY
An Authoritative Guide to Sex Education

KINSEY ON SEX RESPONSE IN CHILDREN

"MANY a child who knows nothing about (sex) reproduction, or about the differences between the male and the female, has developed definite attitudes and responses toward sex at the age of two or three," says Dr. Alfred Kinsey, famous sexologist and director of the Institute of Sex Research at Indiana University. Many interesting discoveries about sex reactions in young children were reported by Dr. Kinsey recently before an assembly of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies in New York. He particularly noted that—"parents are more interested in the adjustment of their children to marriage than in their own marital adjustment."

Studies made by Dr. Kinsey and his staff on sex reactions in several hundred children under the age of five reveal that by the time an average boy or girl is two to three years old, their future personality adjustment (for marriage) has already been seriously influenced; that is, so far as parental guidance and psychological training factors are concerned. Says Dr. Kinsey—"When more than a few months elapse without suitable training (sex education), you have lost one of your valuable opportunities. By two or three years (of age) the basic influences have been laid. By the middle teens, the ultimate adjustment to marriage has been developed."

Children are far more difficult to study in relation to sex reactions than older people; but some interesting and surprising results have been obtained. The youngsters are asked simple questions about sex and boy-girl relations by parents, teachers and scientists while engaged in games and sports. From the answers, certain conclusions can be drawn. Very young children (two to three years old) have shown that they are capable of having sex responses of a similar nature to those experienced by adults. Stranger still is the discovery that it is possible for tiny infants only two to three months old to respond to sex stimulation in the manner as experienced by the parents of more mature children. Research on early sex activity confirms Freud's views on child sex behavior.

The marital reactions of the individual (when he or she reaches adulthood) are often a reflection of the affection and general emotional relationship between mother and child during babyhood. If the baby was uninhibited when cuddled by its mother (or father) and responded likewise in a spontaneous manner, this unrestrained healthy attitude could, quite conceivably, persist through the years of childhood into the adult marriage stage.

When the formative early period is influenced by an unwholesome response between mother and child, the child may become tense and shy, with these patterns expressing themselves in some ways in later marital life. It is premature to state permanent conclusions as yet, but it is clear that the earlier the parrot's start the better time they will have to help their children develop adjusted personalities and wholesome attitudes toward sexual behavior.

MAY, 1954
Sex researchers love to shock the public. Trouble is, the public is becoming more and more difficult to shock, and researchers are running out of myths to attack. Perhaps that accounts for the latest—and what may be the most reprehensible yet—trend in the field: well-known researchers and a few allies in academe are conducting a campaign to undermine the strongest and most universal of sexual proscriptions, the taboo against incest.

Most of the chopping away at the taboo is still cautious and limited. Says John Money of Johns Hopkins, one of the best-known sex researchers in the nation: "A childhood sexual experience, such as being the partner of a relative or of an older person, need not necessarily affect the child adversely." Money and Co-Author Gertrude Williams explain in their forthcoming book, *Traumatic Abuse and Neglect of Children* about the public attitude that "no matter how benign, any adult-child interaction that may be construed as even remotely sexual, qualifies, a priori, as traumatic and abusive." One who commits incest, says the authors, is like "a religious deviant in a one-religion society"—thus neatly planting the notion that opposition to incest is quite like religious intolerance.

Wardell Pomeroy, co-author of the original Kinsey reports on males and females, is far more blunt. "It is time to admit that incest need not be a perversion or a symptom of mental illness," he says. "Incest between ... children and adults ... can sometimes be beneficial." Indeed the new pro-incest literature is filled with the stupefying idea that opposition to incest is quite like religious intolerance.

At Tufts, one such self-styled sexual radical: "Children have the right to express themselves sexually, even with members of their own family." But most of the pro-incest thought rises logically enough from the premises of the sex-research establishment: all forms of consensual sexuality are good, or at least neutral; problems arise not from sex, but from guilt, fear and repression. That kind of faith is bound to lead its believers in crusades against all sexual prohibitions, including incest.

Traditional academics have tended to look down on sex researchers as pushy, ham-handed amateurs, and the arguments for incest will do little to change that view. The literature shows absolutely no attention to psychological realities: that often an adolescent and surely a small child can hardly produce anything like informed consent to an adult it depends on for life and guidance; or that the lifting of the incest barrier would invite the routine exploitation of children by disturbed parents. The sex researchers may get the shocked public reaction they expect, but their arguments are truly too simple-minded to earn it. Critic Benjamin DeMott, professor of English at Amherst, feels that outrage is not/ the proper response to what might be called the pro-incest lobby. Says he: "These voices cry out loudest for pity."

**Sexes**

**Attacking the Last Taboo**

Researchers are lobbying against the ban on incest

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Cricket to Grave Intimacy

Some researchers openly argue that "anything goes for children with people older than themselves." What about older men preying on four- and five-year-olds? Constantine would argue that if children were properly educated about sex, a child who did not want sex could always say no.

Almost all sexologists publicly suggest that they oppose adult-child sex, but a number of researchers maintain that such sex is basically harmless to the child. Not studied are "the not more neurotic than the early sexual stimulation of children," says Marvijj.}

In general, these sexologists consider the "latent" time of low sexual interest: 7 am about four to puberty, to be 788 imposible to the prudish society. Some of the sexologists are fond of pointing out that the bacy's sexual response system begins early—infant boys get erections and infant girls lubricate. Apparently the "own play" with adults "affects them beneficially, even stronger," he theory that children will grow up asking for sex, they do not have early sex. "Sexologist John Mono of Johns Hopkins wrote in 788 sex mag., one: "It is almost certain that human beings, like the other primates, require a period of early sexual rehearsal play." Another refrain is that sexual liberation cannot be withheld from the young. Western society has undergone a revolution in sex, al values but has tried to apply it exclusively to adults. Anthropologist Rjechar Cuiner wrote in human Behavior "and the rainer arbitrary restriction simply awaking." One of the more intellectually disheveled of the new apostles of child sex is Family Therapists. Lary C. nsminute of Action. Mass. vs. teste views sound like a satire on how to raise child en. Says he, "Children really are a disassembled minority. They who would have right to express themselves sexually, which means that they may or may not have contact including the masturbation of infants by adults—in some pnsurivv JuTurcs. "Someone buys does not seem o harm the child."

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Another common theme is that adult-child sex must be judged by the quality of the relationship involved. Sociologist Ford Martinson of Minnesota's Custavus Adolphus College thinks adults involved in affectionate sexual relationships with lots should not go to jail. "Intimate human relations are important and precious," he feels. 'I'd like to see as few restrictions placed on them as possible."

Psychologist Douglas Powell of the Harvard Health Service says: "I have not seen anyone harmed by this so long as it occurs in a relationship with somebody who really cares about the child."

The fact that such views fall just short of a crusade for child sex is hot lost on pedophiles. VaTu DavThao of the "Children's "Sexual" Freedom" group, the "having sex with people older than themselves." What about older men preying on four- and five-year-olds? Constantine would argue that if children were properly educated about sex, a child who did not want sex could always say no.

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