

Cindy Pierce

Author, Speaker & Comic Storyteller

June 2022 Newsletter

Watch Cindy's latest video:

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[ONWARD WITH THE](#)
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Kids who receive comprehensive sexuality, including discussions about the unrealistic and misleading ideas about sexuality in porn, tend to make healthier, more informed choices as teens.



Cindy's June Speaking Engagements:

- Moses Brown School - Providence, RI
- Well, Now! Camp - Kenyon College, Gambier, OH
- Under the Hood Talk -

Thanks for tuning in to my June newsletter.

I believe it is essential for schools to take a more active role in educating parents and caregivers about their kids' online lives. Schools could help bring parents and caring adults up to speed by regularly sharing links to articles, TED talks, studies, books and podcasts on topics that are impacting younger and younger kids. If more parents, caring adults and educators had access to curated resources and information, kids could benefit greatly.

This year, I have become increasingly concerned about the gap between what parents and caring adults understand about their kids' online lives and the actual online experiences of kids. Once a kid has a cell phone, their exposure to explicit material ramps up quickly no matter what values and expectations are taught in their family.

It is now considered normal for older elementary and middle school kids to have cell phones with "safety" and convenience leading the justification. Parents and caregivers are generally unaware of the tone and content of their kids' social interactions and online exposure, including porn (Here is a link to my essay: [What is Pornography](#)).

Generally, parents have good intentions when they provide their kids with a cell phone. It is common for parents to assume that their kids "know their values" and hope for the best. Kids with cell phones have the ease of access to explicit material for kids with phones has inspired many pediatricians to suggest that parents step into their role as the primary sexuality educators. Kids who receive comprehensive sexuality, including discussions about the unrealistic and misleading ideas about sexuality in porn, tend to make healthier, more informed choices as teens.

Middle school educators, in particular, are in a tricky situation. So many middle school students spend the day distracted by and anxious about the unseen banter and drama that unfolds online during and after school as well as all night. It has become clear that younger students are in need of frank conversations about healthy sexuality and online safety. Unfortunately, there is a lot of resistance among parents who are oblivious of or in denial about the content their kids encounter online.

At a time when kids are overwhelmed by anxiety, often fueled by what they consume online, it seems essential that we need to take measures to support them. If parents and caring adults received a weekly dose of information about the realities and risks of their kids' online lives, parent engagement could increase. Word-of-mouth is an effective way to spread the value and relevance of information and perspectives shared by educators who are in the eye of the storm.

Thanks for engaging. Please forward this newsletter to anyone who may be interested in my work or direct them to the subscribe link below.

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Many thanks,

Cindy Pierce

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Books by Cindy:

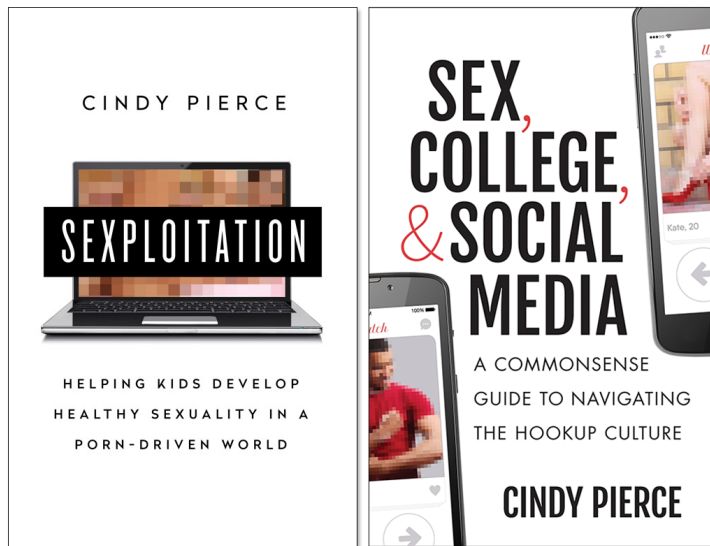
[Sexploitation: Helping Kids Develop Healthy Sexuality in Porn-Driven World](#)

(Bibliomotion, 2015)

and

[Sex, College and Social Media: A Commonsense Guide to Navigating the Hookup Culture](#)

(Bibliomotion, 2016)



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