

Role Play: Talking about Sexting and Nudes

PARENT: I'd like to talk to you about something. Have you heard of people sexting, like using texting or chats to talk about sex?

TEEN: Yes, of course.

PARENT: What about nudes? Do you know what that is?

TEEN: Yeah.

PARENT: Do you know of friends who are doing this?

TEEN: Yeah, but it's not a big deal. I mean, it's a little weird, but doesn't it just mean that someone likes you if they send you a nude, or ask for a nude? Besides, they can't see your face in a nude.

PARENT: I think it is a big deal. For one thing, it's illegal, and it's a form of pornography. And there are many cases when messages that contain sexting or nudes are used to harm the person who sent it. They can fall into the wrong hands or, if the relationship doesn't go well, the receiver may take revenge by sharing the images. You don't want to do anything you would not want your future spouse to know about.

TEEN: I never thought about that.

PARENT: Also, when someone asks for nudes, it's not based on love, just lust. A person who really loves you will never make disrespectful or embarrassing demands, nor push you to do anything that is uncomfortable and secretive. If someone asks you to do something that you need to hide from your parents, it's probably wrong, and will make you feel guilty and lonely. If they really loved you, they would care more for you than themselves. It's best to decide ahead of time what to do or say if someone asks you for a nude.

TEEN: I guess I could say, "If you want to know me, then get to know me as a person. I don't want a shallow relationship that doesn't include real love and trust."

PARENT: That's a great way to say it.