

DID YOU KNOW...

BUT DID YOU ALSO KNOW...

THAT IT'S AGE APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR?

Experts say that rather than being shocked to find that kids are sexting, we should instead be talking about it from an early age, just as we should about other aspects of their developing sense of self, personal safety and boundaries. It's becoming a normal part of teen sexual behavior and development.

Step back for a minute and think about developmentally appropriate foolish romantic things teenagers do. Try to view sexting as: "something that might feel like a normal thing to do and a normal thing to ask, and yes, other people are doing it, but it's a risky thing for you to do and if you find yourself in that situation we can talk about it."

As kids get older, conversations should become more direct. Conversations should include the pressure to do it as well as the consequences of sending messages and images. Let kids tell you what they know, what they think, what they're seeing, what they're feeling. It's part of talking about safety, online and offline, and part of talking about social behavior, friendships and romantic relationships and how people treat others and the way we want to be treated.

SEXTING:

Sending, receiving, or forwarding sexually explicit messages, photographs, or images between mobile phones or digital devices. This can be with or without permission.

When shared, these images are often sent to multiple people at a time.

1 in 4 teens are sexting; and it's on the rise!

Kids as young as 11 have sent sexts.

Teens are pressured from friend and partners to send these images.

Sending these images is illegal. This is considered child pornography!