



RSE guidance notes for teachers: Reception, Year 1 & Year 2

This guidance is to support teachers if they have questions or situations arise that they feel unsure or uncomfortable dealing with

Answering questions:

When a child asks a question that you cannot answer because the answer is outside the scope of your year group curriculum, you should:

- Acknowledge the question and give the message it is okay to ask eg *'Thanks for asking that question / that's an interesting one'*
- Check out the context of the child's question before you give an answer eg *'Tell me a bit about where you heard about that'*
- If you are unsure if you should answer the question, buy yourself some time by responding *'Thanks for answering that question. I'll have a think and get back to you'*. You can consult a colleague but it is important you do get back to the child even if it is to say it is a question you are not able to answer
- A good reassuring answer is *'I'm not sure how to answer that question – I suggest you ask someone at home'*.
- You **must** let parents know if there is a specific question their child has asked that you have been unable to answer so they are aware and can deal with it appropriately

Gathering questions: there are different ways to elicit questions eg

- 'Ask it Basket' where children can write their questions either with names or anonymously
- Group tasks where children decide their top 3 questions they want to ask
- Ask for a friend: this is useful for children who are shy or reluctant to ask questions

The following is a guide to how to answer some typical questions:



Questions	Possible responses
How do babies get there?	Explain that a baby is made inside and then grows inside their mother; the baby doesn't arrive from outside the body
Why do people have babies?	Explain that often 2 people who are in a stable, committed relationship and love each other may decide they want to have their own family. Could refer to animals who have babies too.
Why can't men have babies?	Babies can only grow inside a woman, as men don't have a special place – womb / uterus – for the baby to grow inside their body. But men do have babies because every baby begins with a man and a woman. Men can't give birth to babies.
How can two mummies and two daddies have a baby?	<i>This question might arise if a child knows of a same-sex family</i> There are lots of different ways of being a family. Some families have a mummy and daddy, others just a mummy or just a daddy, some two mummies and some two daddies. One thing is the same for all families that they should love and look after their children make sure they are safe and well.
How are twins made?	Twins are two babies who have the same mother and father, who grow inside their mother at the same time and are born at the same time. Some twins look the same as each other, others are different.
How does the egg meet the sperm?	The male and female join together in a special way so that the seed /sperm from the male can meet the egg from the female.
Are all babies made inside their mother?	No sometimes a doctor needs to help and the baby is begun outside the mother and put safely in the womb to grow there.
Does having a baby hurt?	Explain that giving birth does hurt the mother, but that the pain goes away after the baby is born.
How does the baby come out?	When the baby is ready to be born, the entrance to the womb opens up and then squeezes very hard to push the baby out through the vagina (special tube). Sometimes a doctor needs to help the baby to be born.
Are all babies born the same way?	Most babies are born when the womb pushes the baby out. Some babies can't be born safely this way so the doctor does a special operation to lift the baby out.
Why do boys have balls?	A boy's testes are the place where, when he is older, his seeds (sperm) are made. If these seeds meet a woman's eggs then a baby may begin.
What is circumcision?	<i>It is very unlikely that a young child will ask this question</i> It is an operation that a baby boy might have done on his penis.
Can people stop babies from being made?	Yes. Having a baby is such a responsible thing to do that grown-ups might decide it is not the right time for them to have a baby.
Why does it mean to say someone is gay?	People often call themselves gay if they love someone of the same sex eg if a woman loves another woman.
Why do some people touch their private parts?	Some people do this because it feels nice.



Caldecote Primary School

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