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**She Isn't Sexy, She's 7**By *CORI HOWARD*

I am sitting at the dinner table with my 7-year-old daughter and my 10-year-old son. Suddenly, my daughter asks: "What's passion mean, Mama?" My son, interrupting my chance to explain, answers, "It's when you're really into something."

Then, my daughter asks: "So how do you get passion in your pants?"

If you're a parent to young children or teenagers, you probably know where this is going. LMFAO, the pop music band, has a song whose lyrics I hear more than a few times a day, sung in pure earnest fervor throughout my house: "There's passion in my pants and I ain't afraid to show it, show it, show it. I'm sexy and I know it."

We are not alone. A quick YouTube search produces literally hundreds of videos featuring children under the age of 10 dancing earnestly to the song while parents giggle from behind their cameras.

It's a catchy dance tune, introduced into my house by my son's friend. Recently, my younger sister showed them the music video in which one of the singers is featured wearing a gold lame G-string wiggling his "privates," as my daughter calls them. They thought it was hilarious. Then my sister explained the acronym in the group's name. This delighted my kids even more. I was furious.

I knew there was no use getting mad at my sister. I told her I thought they were too young for sexy music videos and swear words, but she doesn't have children and she's a full decade younger than me, so she doesn't see why it's a big deal. "They don't really know what it means," she told me.

That didn't seem to matter to administrators at a school in suburban Denver who recently suspended a 6-year-old boy for telling a girl, "I'm sexy and I know it." They claimed it was sexual harassment, when really it's just a first grader quoting a song.

But — but — there is something very disturbing about watching your young daughter gyrating and moving her hands up and down her torso while singing, "Ah, girl, look at that body." She isn't sexy, she's 7. And I resent the music that has her declaring her sexuality before she's even old enough to have prepubescent hormones.

Really, I'm at a major loss, and this whole struggle is making me feel like a prude. As far as I can tell, I have three options:

1. Ban "that kind" of music, enduring hours of fighting only to make it more appealing.
2. Ignore it and hope the sexual innuendo goes over their heads.
3. Talk to them about it.

Option three sounds like the correct choice...the progressive choice. There are plenty of Web sites and expert articles recommending an "open ended" conversation with your children when it comes to racy lyrics. But when I try to answer my daughter's question about the meaning of "passion in your pants," it comes out all wrong.

"Well," I stammer, "it's when you're excited and um, well, when you want to have sex with someone."

"Really?" asks my daughter. "Who do they want to have sex with?"

"You don't even know what sex is," my son accuses.

"Yes, I do. It's when you kiss someone. Like on TV."

So then, we need to have "the conversation" again and I need to spell out what sex is.

Clearly, the "talk about it" solution isn't working for me and it's just introducing ideas even more unsettling than the lyrics themselves. What I think parents like me need is a new paradigm for how to deal with this. The problem is definitely not going away and will probably just get worse. So despite "expert" wisdom, I've decided the best path forward is denial. I will completely ignore the words to these songs, keep a straight face and hope what they don't know won't hurt them.

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