

# 5 Things Teens Wish Their Parents Knew About Porn



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by Clay Olsen, Co-Founder of Fight the New Drug

[Excerpted from a [presentation](#) Clay Olsen gave at the [Utah Coalition Against Pornography](#) Conference.]

There is a disconnect between kids and parents on the subject of pornography. You can only help your kids if you bridge that gap with knowledge and understanding. Fight the New Drug has received thousands of emails from teens and spoken to tens of thousands of teens at school presentations. From their experience, they have pulled together these 5 things kids really wish their parents understood about pornography.

## #1 They wish you knew that **porn can lead to an actual addiction.**

Of course not all people who view pornography are addicted, but parents need to understand that pornography can become an actual chemical addiction in the brain. Of the thousands of emails FTND has received from people struggling with porn, not one became addicted as an adult. All started as kids or as teens.

Emails from teens

- "Please help me!!! I have been suffering from watching porn since I was 11 and now I am 15. Please how do I stop this?! I cannot tell my parents." Isabel, 15
- "This addiction has been horrible. I'm becoming numb to all of the simple pleasures that I used to enjoy. I'm becoming depressed because of my own weakness and every time I fall, I fall harder." Eric 18
- "My life now would have been much different if my father had understood that pornography was a true addiction and that 'just stop' wasn't an option." Stephen, 16
- "I've been struggling with pornography for three years. I've thought of suicide as a result of this." Leo, 13

Clay: "If you don't talk to your young kids, the porn industry will, and you won't like what they'll say."

## #2 They wish you knew that **porn is different today** than what it was when you were growing up.

Pornography is accessible via the internet 24/7 with no social barriers to impede kids from finding it. It's become violent and degraded to the point that Playboy images are considered soft core.

- "My parents don't know how bad it really is. They think porn is just naked people. Today porn is much worse than people with no clothes." Mike, 16

Today porn is **accessible, anonymous, affordable** and **addictive**.



### #3 They wish you knew **they are being targeted.**

Kids are the victims of sophisticated and intentional marketing. If the porn industry can get them hooked when they're young, they know they'll have a long term customer. Here are 5 ways the porn industry targets your kids:

1. Free teaser images, pop-up ads, and banner ads pull kids into porn
2. Innocent word searches bring up pornography
3. Cartoon characters and child icons are pornified
4. Video games--many games become sexualized and include porn ads and porn bots

### #4 They wish you knew that **you need to talk with them.**

- "I don't remember my parents talking to me about it until it had become a problem. I was 10 or 11. I wish I had understood the issue sooner." Matt, 19
- "I wish they knew how to address it or speak about it openly and without feeling shy/disgusted." Olivia, 17

Don't succumb to the *Curiosity Myth* (thinking that by talking to your kids you'll raise their curiosity). You need to talk with kids sooner than you think and continue the conversation.

#### Tips for parents:

1. Get educated
2. Take time to talk
3. Find the right place
4. Make it one-on-one
5. Stay calm
6. Express love

### #5 They wish you knew that **YOU are part of the solution.**

Be prepared, pay attention, help protect, set a standard and be an example. Parents set standards with them (not *for* them) that the entire family (including parents) will follow. Parents can set an example of what love and healthy intimacy looks like the opposite of pornography.

#### Resources for parents from Fight the New Drug

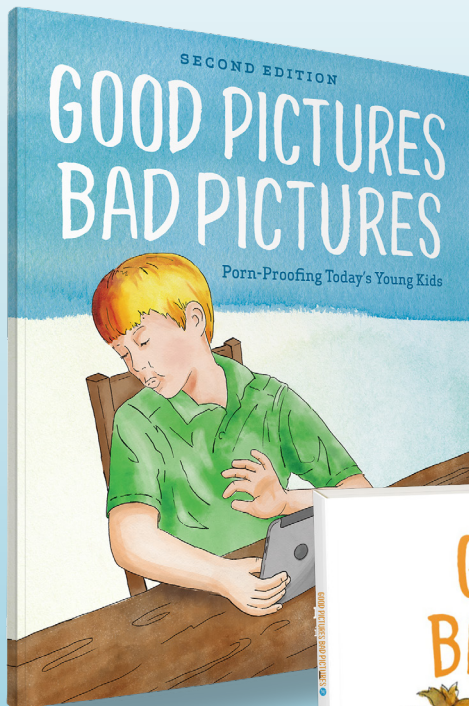
- For Parents: [How To Update "The Sex Talks" With Your Kids To Include Porn](#)
- Find out more about FTND's FREE pornography recovery program for teens called Fortify at [joinfortify.com](http://joinfortify.com).
- To see the entire presentation, click [here](#).

*"As far as I'm concerned, reading and implementing [Good Pictures Bad Pictures](#) with your kids isn't an option: it's a necessity."* Clay Olsen

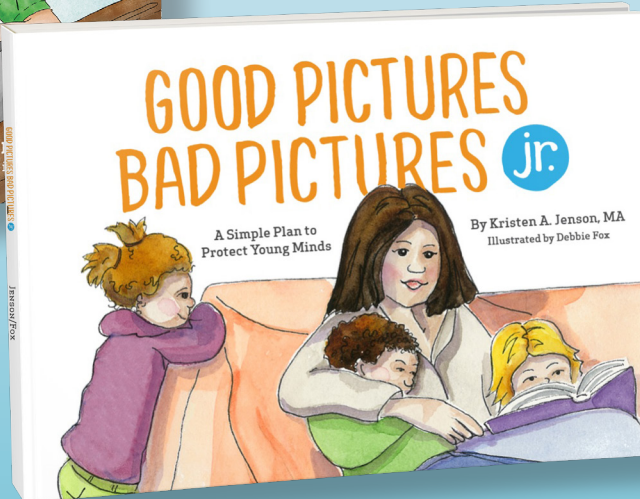


# protecting our most vulnerable

POWERFUL TOOLS TO RAISE  
PORN PROOF KIDS



#1  
**BEST  
SELLERS**



**As a psychologist and a mother of four, I can't recommend this book highly enough.**

Pornography is a fast-track to depression, anxiety, and unhealthy relationships between males and females. Parents need to understand that their kids are being exposed to porn at a younger age than they realize...your kids will rarely tell you what they saw. We need to GET AHEAD OF THE CURVE by reading this book to them and discussing what they need to do if they stumble across porn.

MARY, AMAZON REVIEW  
OF GOOD PICTURES BAD  
PICTURES: PORN-PROOFING  
TODAY'S YOUNG KIDS

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