PLEASURE IS OUR REVOLUTION

with Jenn Mason, Owner of WinkWink
ALL-AGES              INCLUSIVE              NOT CREEPY
We celebrate sexual expression and exploration, banish shame, and help our customers to better love themselves and others.
ABOUT ME
WHY DOES THIS WORK MATTER?
THE PLAN:

1. What messages are people receiving about sex?
2. What is sex-negativity vs. sex-positivity?
3. What is sexual liberation?
4. How does some sexual assault prevention reinforce problematic messages?
5. How can you implement sex-positivity into your work?
1. Where did you learn about sex and relationships?
REFLECTION:

2. What were the messages you received about sex?
WHAT IS SEX-NEGATIVITY?
SEX NEGATIVITY…

VIEWS SEX AS TABOO.
USES SHAME AS A TOOL TO SHAPE BEHAVIOR.
SEX NEGATIVITY...

CENTERS ON RISKS AND NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES.
SEX NEGATIVITY…

DENIES ACCESS TO EDUCATION.
ALLOWS FOR A NARROW DEFINITION OF SEX.
SEX NEGATIVITY...

SHAMES HAVING TOO MUCH SEX...AND NOT ENOUGH.
VALUES CERTAIN BODY TYPES OVER OTHERS.

SEX NEGATIVITY...
BELIEVES ONLY CERTAIN PEOPLE DESERVE PLEASURE.
What and who's pleasure is most acceptable?

- White
- Cisgender
- Straight
- Non-disabled
- Young to middle-age adults
- Neurotypical
- "Vanilla"
- Monogamous
- Conventionally attractive body and looks
- Men
What and who's PLEASURE is most acceptable?

Cisgender
- White
- Men
- Monogamous
- "Vanilla"
- Conventionally attractive body and looks

Transgender and non-binary
- Women
- Non-disabled
- Non-monogamous
- Neurodivergent
- Fat bodies, not conventionally attractive

POC
- Kinky

LGBTQIA+
- Transgender and non-binary

Neurotypical
- Young to middle-age adults

People with disabilities
- Teens and young adults, seniors
UPHOLDS ASSUMPTIONS AND STEREOTYPES.

SEX NEGATIVITY...
SEX NEGATIVITY...

DEFAULTS TO STRAIGHT, CISGENDER MEN AS PRIORITY AND IDEAL TEMPLATE.
BELIEVES OPEN SEXUAL COMMUNICATION IS EMBARRASSING AND UNSEXY.
SEX NEGATIVITY...

TREATS TEEN RELATIONSHIPS WITH AMBIGUALANCE, CONDESCENSION, OR HOSTILITY
Teaching sexual assault prevention in a sex-negative context makes it difficult to be believable.
WHAT IS SEX-POSITIVITY?
BELIEVES SEX IS NORMAL AND HEALTHY.
USES AFFIRMATION AND CHOICE AS A TOOL TO SHAPE BEHAVIOR.

SEX POSITIVITY...
CENTERS ON PLEASURE (WHICH INCLUDES REDUCING HARM).
SEX POSITIVITY…

ENCOURAGES AND OFFERS ACCESS TO EDUCATION.
SEX POSITIVITY...

ALLOWS FOR LOTS OF WAYS TO EXPRESS SEXUALITY.
AFFIRMS CHOICES TO HAVE LOTS OF SEX OR NONE AT ALL.
SEX POSITIVITY…

VALUES ALL BODY TYPES.
BELIEVES ALL PEOPLE ARE INHERENTLY DESERVING OF EXPERIENCING PLEASURE
SEX POSITIVITY…

BREAKS DOWN AND RESISTS ASSUMPTIONS AND STEREOTYPES
SEX POSITIVITY…

CENTERS ON INDIVIDUALITY AND PERSONAL EXPERIENCE
BELIEVES COMMUNICATION IS ESSENTIAL FOR INTIMACY, PLEASURE AND SAFETY

(and is pretty sexy too)
SEX LIBERATION IS...

• Defined by one’s self, rather than external factors
• Free to explore and pursue one’s own desires
• Able to express desires, consent, and limits
• An embodied, integrated part of self
• Self-mastery
Are we reinforcing problematic narratives in our work?
NARRATIVES:

• Added hostility toward young relationships
• Gatekeeper vs. conqueror
• Alcohol as a sexual crutch
Consent, when rooted in a sex-negative framework, allows for harmful messages and power imbalances to remain socially desirable.
TRADITIONAL CONSENT FRAMEWORK:

How do we move people away from harm?
WHAT ARE WE MOVING PEOPLE TOWARDS?

HARM → ?
How do we move people towards pleasure?
What happens when sexual pleasure is also unacceptable or left undefined?
HOW CAN YOU INTEGRATE SEX-POSITIVITY INTO YOUR WORK?
INTEGRATING SEX-POSITIVITY:

ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR OWN JUDGMENTS AND LIMITATIONS
INTEGRATING SEX-POSITIVITY:

ACKNOWLEDGE THAT YOU CARE ABOUT THEIR SEXUAL WELL-BEING
INTEGRATING SEX-POSITIVITY:

TALK ABOUT BOTH GOOD SEX AND SEXUAL ASSAULT
INTEGRATING SEX-POSITIVITY:

BE HONEST, REALISTIC, AND NUANCED
INTEGRATING SEX-POSITIVITY:

BE CULTURALLY-RELEVANT
INTEGRATING SEX-POSITIVITY:

LET PARTICIPANTS TEACH EACH OTHER
INTEGRATING SEX-POSITIVITY:

UNDERSTAND AND QUESTION SEX-NEGATIVE NARRATIVES
INTEGRATING SEX-POSITIVITY:

PROMOTE COMMUNICATION INSTEAD OF JUST CONSENT
INTEGRATING SEX-POSITIVITY:

HELP ENVISION
SOMETHING BETTER
INTEGRATING SEX-POSITIVITY:

TALK ABOUT GENDER NORMS AND PLEASURE
INTEGRATING SEX-POSITIVITY:

ADDRESS FETISHIZATION AND VIOLATIONS BASED ON RACE/CLASS/ABILITY/-ISMS
INTEGRATING SEX-POSITIVITY:

TEACH REJECTION
RESILIENCE
TALK ABOUT PORN
(CHECK YOUR OWN JUDGMENTS)
INTEGRATING SEX-POSITIVITY:

HELP PARTICIPANTS CLAIM THEIR PLEASURE (yes/no/maybe list, etc.)
INTEGRATING SEX-POSITIVITY:

EXPAND YOUR OWN KNOWLEDGE!
EXPAND YOUR KNOWLEDGE:

- Jimanekia Eborn, Trauma Queen
- Ev’Yan Whitney
- Dawn Serra
- LexxSexDoc
- Pleasur.Ed
- Scarleteen
- Jayda_Kissed
- Afrosexology
- Dirty South Sex Ed
- Sex Ed with B
- Shadeen Francis
- Six Minute Sex Ed
- Sex Positive Families
- Crippling Up Sex
- Disability After Dark
- BlackQueerLove
- FatPositiveTherapy
- SexPositiveSexEd, Jenny Waugh
- Erica Smith Sex Ed
- Pastor Bae
- Rev L Sex and Faith
- SexEducationASL
- TheFatSexTherapist
EXPAND YOUR KNOWLEDGE:

- Girl Sex 101 by Allison Moon, KD Diamond
- Trans+ by Karen Rayne, PhD and Katherine Gonzales, MBA
- Come as You Are by Emily Nagoski
- Pleasure Activism by Adrienne Maree Brown
- Girls and Sex/Boys and Sex by Peggy Orenstein
- Sex-Positive Talks to have with Kids by Melissa Carnagey
- A Quick and Easy Guide to Sex and Disability by A. Andrews
- The Body is not an Apology by Sonya Renee Taylor
THANK YOU!

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