

Autism Spectrum, Sexuality and the Law

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AutismONTARIO

Disclaimers & Statements

General Disclaimer

- Opinions are of the presenters
- Make informed decisions

Language

- Identity-first (e.g., autistic person)
- Person-first (e.g., person with autism)

Professional Disclaimer

- Specific questions
- Additional Resources

Content Disclaimer

- Sensitive themes
- Emphasis on education and prevention

Clinique Autisme & Asperger de Montréal



Content

- Sexual profile and development
- Inappropriate behaviours
- Material and adapted strategies



Autism & Asperger's Profile

- Social skills: free of social rules
- Communication abilities: verbal and nonverbal
- Theory of Mind: different ways of thinking
- Emotions: detecting, reading, expressing
- Sensory issues

TONY ATTWOOD, ISABELLE HENAUULT AND NICK DUBIN

THE AUTISM SPECTRUM, SEXUALITY AND THE LAW

What every parent
and professional
needs to know



Nick Dubin's Story

- Confusion and curiosity
- Social isolation
- Intimidation
- Sexual desire
- Material on Internet

Puberty

- Friendship and social skills
- Skills: communication: verbal and nonverbal, social interactions, sharing
- Intensity of relationship
 - Appropriate: finding a balance
 - Inappropriate
 - Love & friendship, intimacy



Presenting Issues in Autism and the Law

- Lack of sexual education
- Overprotection
- Interest and curiosity
- Limits and boundaries
- Knowledge about the law
- Internet and pornography

Psychosexual Factors VS. Triggers & Maintaining Factors

- Structural
 - lack of education, procedures
- Modeling: imitation
- Reinforcement
- Poor partner selection
- Lack of social/sexual skills
- Theory of Mind
- Emotions
- Poor sexual knowledge
- Impulsivity
 - routines and rigid scripts
- History of abuse
- Medical
 - side effects of medication
 - organic factors

Moral Judgement and Empathy

- Social dilemmas
- Moral situations
- Consent & Theory of Mind
- Criminal actions without negative intentions
- Poor understanding of consequences
- Autism profile distinct from a predator
 - Lack of concern for the well-being of others, superficial social charm, self-absorption, limited empathy, manipulative tendencies
- The need for education on Theory of Mind, consent and consequences.

Legal Aspects of Sexual Behaviours

Intervention models and education plan

- Notion private and public
- Limits: age groups
- Parental control
- Pornography (juvenile): consent and protection
- Law: legal consequences

Pornography: Risk Factors

- Visual, quick and curious
- Following instructions... *'click here'*
- Free-accessible
- Juvenile: 12-15 years old/ambivalent
- Gap in maturity
- Fixation on a site/image

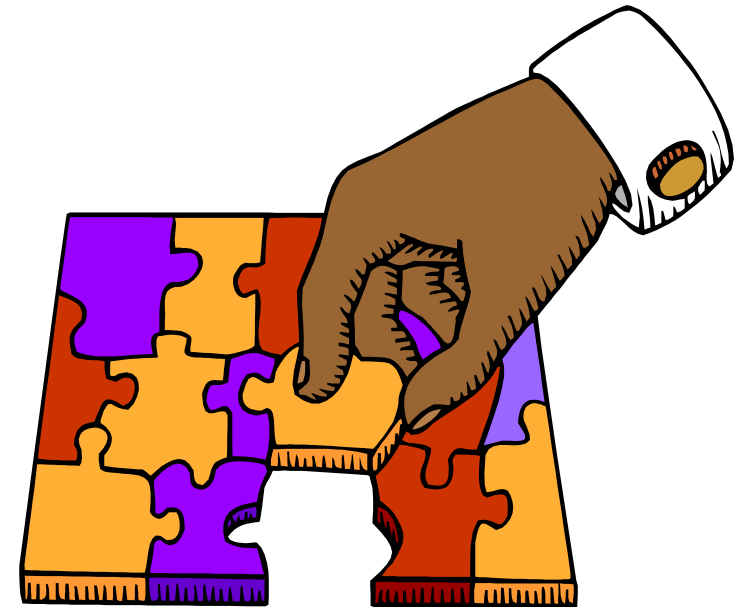
Informed Consent: Tools and Teaching

- **Verbal Informed Sexual Consent Tool YAI**
(Available for download in the resource panel)
- 5 indicators:
 - Choice to engage or abstain from sexual contact
 - Prevention of STI's and unwanted pregnancy
 - Private versus public
 - Law
 - Abuse and prevention

- **Theory of Mind**
- **Practical materials**
- **Videos**



Programs, Tools and Interventions





Asperger Syndrome and Sexuality

FROM ADOLESCENCE THROUGH ADULTHOOD

Isabelle Hénault

Foreword by Tony Attwood

Intervention and Materials to Teach Healthy Sexuality

- Sexual Education in images: details
- Positions: *how to make love?*
- Healthy sexuality, script and foreplay
- **website:** Educationsensuelle.com

Intervention

- Security: victim and behaviours
- Prevention: bullying and assertiveness
- Healthy sexuality: reciprocity, steps in relationships
- Avoiding overprotection
- Addressing sexual matters such as intimacy, consent, private-public, and body parts at a young age: prevention and support!

Intervention Model

- Educating the legal services: Autism profile
- Multidisciplinary team, limits and rules VS. punishment
- Development of *internal control* with regular services
- Client is part of the process
- Theory of Mind (consent, empathy, consequences)



Cyber Bullying, Safety & Sexuality

- Safety on the internet
- Sharing pictures on internet
- Social media (Facebook, TikTok, Instagram, etc.)
- Predators on the internet
- Pornography, illegal sites
- Online dating

Cyber Bullying, Safety & Sexuality

Appropriate

Messages and Information:

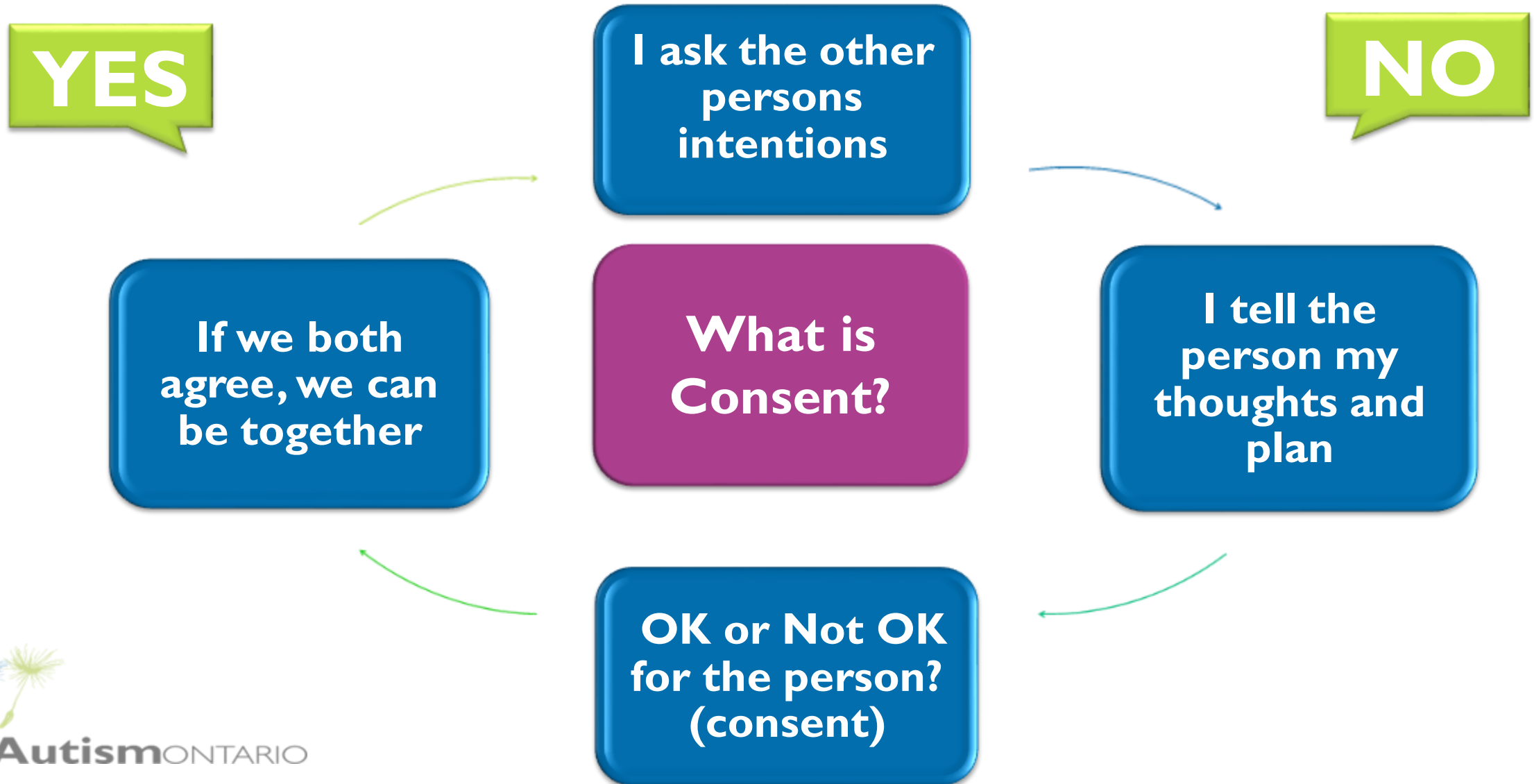
- General pictures from holidays or news from a trip or vacation
- Invitations to special events or activities
- General news about school or work

Inappropriate

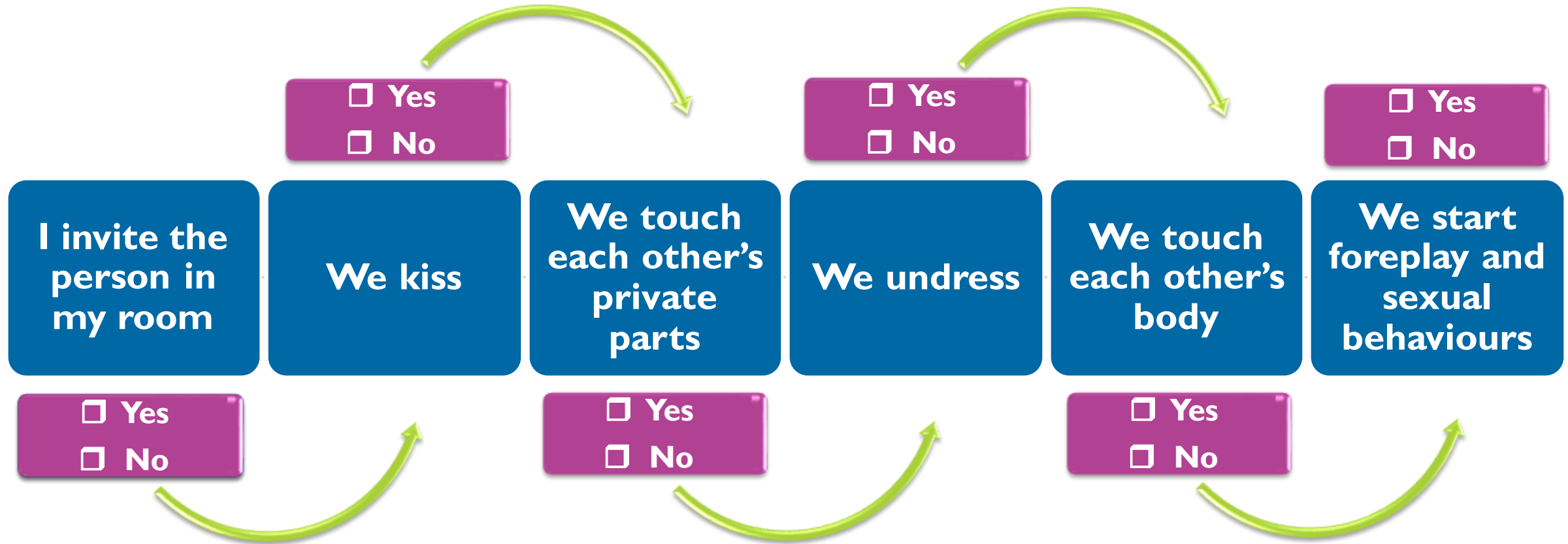
Messages and Information:

- Personal details (e.g., address or contact details)
- Intimate pictures
- Sending or requesting any sexual content, including messages, pictures or videos
- Threats of any kind
- Asking someone intimate or sexual details
- Downloading pictures/videos of child or juvenile pornography
- Sending or sharing files, pictures/videos of child or juvenile pornography

What is Consent?



Can I Change My Mind?



YES at ANY time, I can change my mind.

Signs of Feeling GOOD

**Positive
Signs
+**

Close to the other

I smile

I want to hug

I want to touch

I say nice things

I want to kiss

?

Signs of NOT Feeling Good

Negative Signs

-

Pushing the Other

Crying

Rigid

Getting Away

Warning words*

Unsure

Refusing

Warning Words

Stop!

**I am not
sure!**

No!

**I changed
my mind!**

**I don't
feel good!**

**It's too
quick!**

Not now!

Wait!



Videos and Family Resources

- Flirting or Stalking?
- Making New Friends
- Love or Abuse?

[Video order: Social Signals Ed](#)

Cyber Sex & Bullying

- Prevention of abuse & Cyber intimidation

FREE interactive game:

<https://spvm.qc.ca/fr/jeunesse/jeuxAdo>

Outcomes....

- Communication abilities
- Quality time & intimacy
- Positive emotions
- Self esteem
- Decreasing the risk of sexual abuse
- Healthy sexuality
- Quality of life



Questions



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Feedback Survey

- Please answer each question in the survey
- The questions include items with:
 - A Likert scale (i.e., a 5-point scale with a range of responses)



- Selecting only one answer (single answer)
- Selecting all answers that might apply (multiple selections)
- Text boxes where you type your answer