

Sept Ed.

September 1, 1967

Dr. Laura E. Morrow
197 Passaic Ave.
Passaic, N. J.

Dear Dr. Morrow:

Enclosed please find the statement on Judaism's view of sex education which you solicited from me.

Would you be kind enough to let me know when it is to appear in print, and to let me have two or three copies of the journal when it is published.

Sincerely,

RABBI NORMAN LAMM

RNL/fz
enc.

Judaism has no "official" view on sex education, and only recently have efforts been made to introduce such study into the curriculum of Jewish schools. Nevertheless, the following guidelines may be said to be in consonance with the classic sources of Judaism:

1. Sex education should concern itself with the attainment of mental health as part of the striving for holiness, which is the self-transcendence achieved by conscious conformity with the divine Law.

2. Optimally such instruction should take place in and form part of the religious education of the youngster. The parents' responsibility is primarily that of holding up to the child a model of trust and love; the elementary biological information should preferably be given by the teacher.

3. Sex should be viewed as part of the total personality and not restricted to the act and apparatus of reproduction. Therefore, in addition to biology plus a short course on marriage and family, it should also be related to all the other relevant religious and ethical studies in the curriculum.

4. While the facts should be transmitted openly and without embarrassment, care should be taken not only not to weaken but to reenforce the youngster's natural sense of modesty.

Rabbi Norman Lamm, Ph.D.