

Quick Facts

Asexuality Is Not:

- Celibacy
- Androgyny or lack of gender
- Sexual repression or aversion
- Sexual dysfunction
- Loss of libido due to circumstance or age
- Fear of intimacy
- The inability to find a partner
- The inability to fall in love

Asexual People May:

- Want friendship and understanding just like everyone else.
- Fall in love.
- Experience arousal and orgasm.
- Be of any gender, age, or background.



*We are here to
support you & your
family*

Northern Healthy Connections Society

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- LGBTQ Support
- Youth PhotoVoice
- Sexually Transmitted Infection Information
- Blood Borne Infection Information
- Support and Treatment Information
- Condom Co-op
- Resource Centre
- Information on STBBI Testing and Referrals
- Prevention Education
- Healthy Decision Making Fairs
- Hep C (Hepatitis C) AWARE Project
- Needle Exchange



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So...

Your child is

Asexual



ANSWERS

to some of the

QUESTIONS

You may have.

*Is asexuality caused
by some past trauma
or
repressed
homosexuality?*

Avoid making assumptions and steer clear of prying. If your child hasn't shown mental instability in the past, don't convince yourself that they are hiding a trauma from you. If your child's asexuality is in fact caused by an outside force then they will become aware of it at a later date. If an unfortunate occurrence like sexual abuse has happened in your child's past, it doesn't mean it "made" them asexual. If your child requires a therapist to help them come to terms with their asexuality, that's fine. Don't seek out a psychiatrist to "cure" your child's asexuality against their will--this will be damaging to the relationship you and your child share and harmful to the child as well.

*Did I do something
wrong?*

ABSOLUTELY NOT.

Sexuality is complex. It's highly unlikely how you raised them or a single incident in their lives single-handedly caused them to become asexual.

How can they be
sure it isn't just a
PHASE?

Growing up is a confusing time. Some young people may take longer coming to terms with their sexuality; others will be clear about it very quickly. Only your child will know for sure if they will "grow out of it." Sexuality is fluid and can change over time, but it's highly unlikely your child will change their sexuality based solely upon "the act of growing up." An individual need not experience a sexual relationship to know they are asexual. Asexuality is an orientation, not a sign of immaturity. Dismissing it as a phase will make it seem like you're not taking them seriously and will undermine their confidence, which will make them less likely to open up to you in the future.

I just want them to
be happy...

Just because your child does not live life the same way as others does not mean they cannot take another path to happiness. Your child likely did a lot of soul-searching before coming to the conclusion they are asexual. This may be the first time in a long time they feel this secure. Your child's best chance at happiness comes from your support and love. An individual who has friends will never die alone.

**Is my child
incapable of
Love?**

Hardly. Many asexuals experience romantic and affectionate feelings towards others. Just because your child may be uninterested in seeking out a partner, doesn't mean they are misanthropic. They are capable of forming very close bonds with friends, and may even enter into a non-sexual relationship one day. On the other hand, they could be completely uninterested in a romantic relationship and focus on platonic bonds. Do not pressure your child into "finding the right person." Although they might go about looking for love a completely different way, they are capable of the same feelings of compassion and devotion as anyone else - just expressed in a different way.

Should we tell others
& what will they think?

It is advisable not to tell anyone without your child's permission. It is fairly unnecessary to tell non-family members and acquaintances. Your child will choose which family members and friends they are comfortable with telling. What these people think is irrelevant.