

June 2023

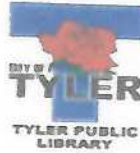
Sexually Explicit Cartoon Drawing in the Juvenile Section

The book "It's Perfectly Normal" was located in the Juvenile section of the library for years. The Juvenile section is for toddlers through about age 12

The Book Reconsideration was submitted in June 2023 and speaks for itself.

This book was removed after receiving this request.

If Mr. Liccardi had not submitted this request, the book would still be there.



Tyler Public Library

Citizen's Request for Reconsideration of Material

Thank you for bringing an item to our attention you feel may not have merit. The Collection Development Committee will examine the material in an attempt to be objective, but they need your help to determine specifically the objection. Your help in this Matter is appreciated. We hope you will continue to use and support the library in its efforts to bring a well-balanced and meaningful collection together for every citizen of Tyler.

Please complete the follow form. You may use the back of the form if you require more space.

Author: Robie H. Harris, Michael Emberley

Title: It's Perfectly Normal

Publisher: Candlewick Press

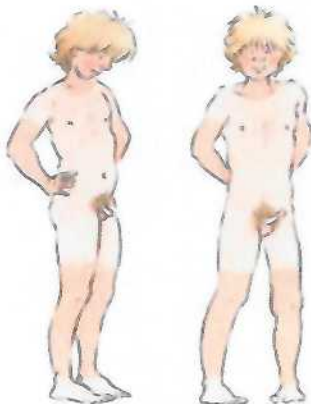
Format: Hardcover X Paperback Recording Other

Request Initiated by: Craig Licciardi

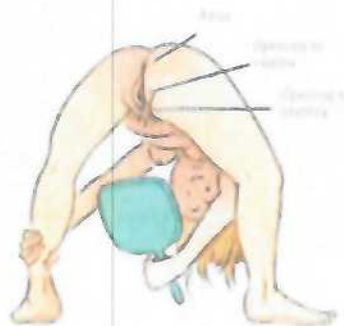
1) To what in the item do you object? Please be specific, citing pages:

SEE PAGES FROM THIS BOOK ATTACHED

Not all parents are interested in their 5 to 10-year-old seeing pictures or learning about topics such as **heterosexual intercourse, abortion, same sex intercourse, blow jobs, masturbation, erections**, etc. The pictures and descriptions in this book should not be readily available to children as young as 5 or 6 wandering the aisles of the juvenile section of the Tyler Public Library. **This book ought not be part of taxpayer funded resources in the Tyler Public Library, full stop. Ideally, the current review process ought to result in a decision to respect the prevailing community standards, and that this odious content would be voluntarily removed from circulation. Knowing there is little likelihood that such an outcome may be realized, I am instead requesting book be placed in the Parenting section, a) parents can still access it, and b) they have a chance to review it prior to deciding whether it is age appropriate for their child.**



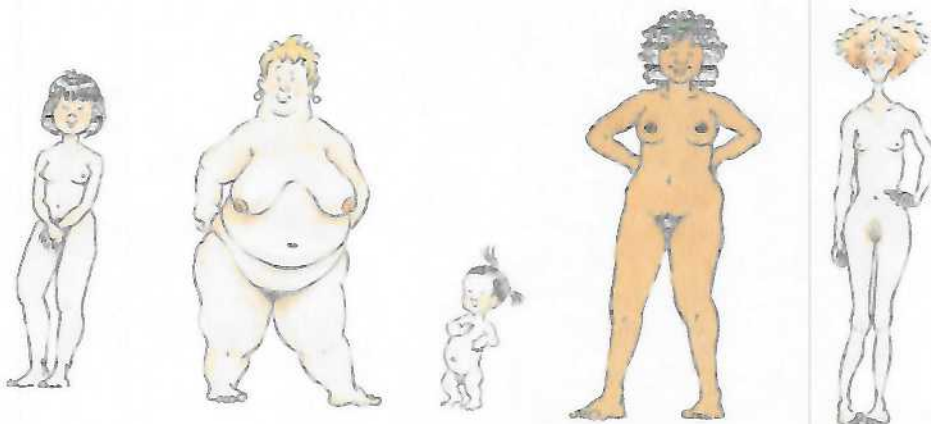
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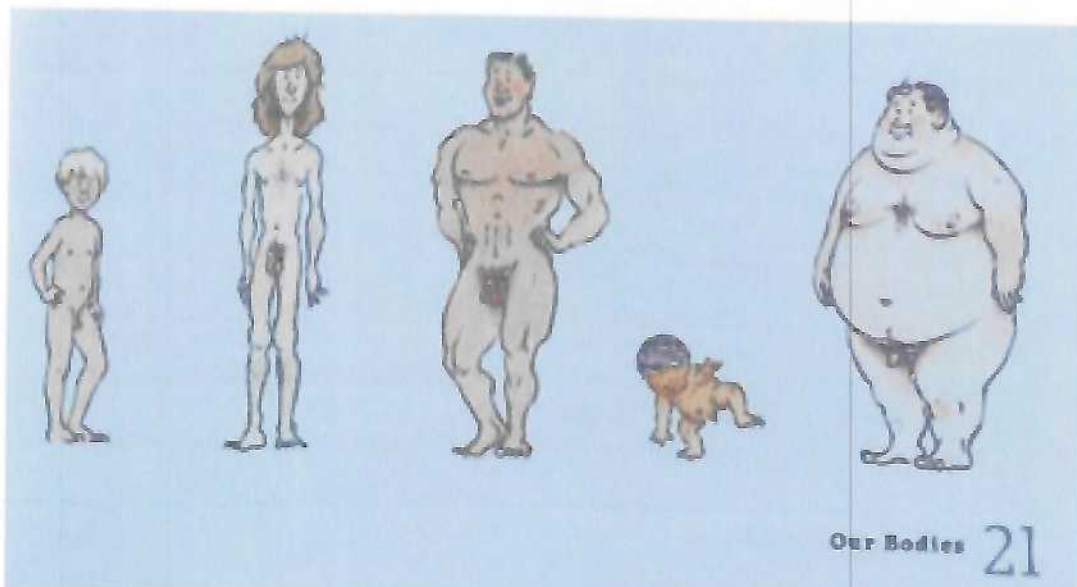
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Tyler taxpayers have every reasonable expectation that their young children can freely peruse the library's children's section without discovering material that has illustrations and content which are above the child's ability to understand or comprehend, such as this:

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Pg 21



Our Bodies 21

Pg 21

Is it "perfectly normal" (or necessary) to teach a child how to masturbate??

16 Perfectly Normal Masturbation

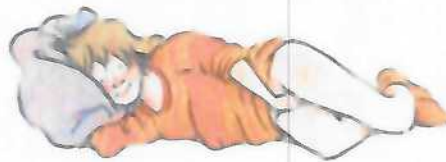
During puberty, when the sex hormones cause boys' and girls' sex organs to become more active, many kids begin to have even more pleasurable and excited feelings about their own bodies—and they may also be more attracted to and interested in other people's bodies.

These feelings are often called sexual feelings or "feeling sexy." Even though they are hard to describe, they are normal feelings. They happen at different times and in different ways for different kids.

Boys and girls, teenagers, and grown-ups too, experience sexy feelings when they masturbate. Masturbation is touching or rubbing any of your body's sex organs for pleasure—because it feels good. One everyday term for masturbating is "playing with yourself."

Maybe you've heard
I've heard about that.

Just remember
that's what
I've heard, it is.



Some people think that masturbation is wrong or harmful. And some religions call masturbation a sin. But masturbating cannot hurt you. And it does not result in pregnancy or in getting or passing on infections that are spread by sexual contact. Many people masturbate. Many don't.

Whether you masturbate or not is your choice. Masturbating is perfectly normal.

When people masturbate, they usually rub their sex organs with their hands or with something soft, like a pillow. A girl often rubs her clitoris; a boy often rubs his penis. Both the clitoris and the penis are sensitive to touch.



As a parent of 7 children, I can assure you that is entirely unreasonable to expect a parent, or any caregiver, to be able to read each and every book prior to the child being exposed to the content while in the library. Indeed, it is entirely unreasonable to expect a parent or caregiver to read every book checked out of the library by their child, prior to the child reading it. Our public library, of all places, must put the physical, mental, and emotional safety of children first, and ensure they are not defrauded of their innocence by exposure to shockingly graphic and obscene content which is patently offensive to our community standards, and certainly not suitable for consumption by young children. Distributing, making available, and exposing children to the kind of content throughout this book is criminal. I would refer you to the Texas

Penal Code Chapter 43, Sections 43.21, 43.23, 43.24, and 43.25. These sections deal with obscenity, and, I might add, are grouped in the same chapter with prostitution and child pornography. These long-established Texas laws classify the sale, distribution, display, or promotion of obscene materials as criminal acts that fall between Class A misdemeanors and 2nd degree felonies. With this in mind, it would be prudent to take into consideration the very real possibility of criminal liability to which representatives and employees of the Tyler Public Library are exposed, by perpetuating the provision of such obscenity to minors.

For the Tyler Library to willfully put books in the children (and/or teen) section that are obscene per established legal definition in the Penal Code, including those that are sexually explicit, vulgar, or pornographic – and then blame the parents for their children stumbling across these vulgar depictions fractures parents' reasonable expectation of the librarian or collection committee's intent or caring of ALL children, including special needs children.

There are other books which articulate content within this physiological and biological context. Other materials approach the subject from an educational and scientific point of view, and refrain from using provocative and explicit language. Furthermore, these other materials do not fill their pages with images meant to stimulate sexual arousal in children, nor intentionally exploit children's natural inquisitiveness to thereby debauch their minds and bodies by experimenting with the overtly graphic depictions and ideas presented in "It's Perfectly Normal."

2) What do you feel might be the result of using this material?

How one person or another 'feels' the results 'might be' of this material is subjective and will vary from person to person. For example, the librarian who placed this book in the children's section clearly has an opinion very different from the vast majority of parents in this community - parents who know these obscene depictions are disturbing and shocking to young children (and probably quite a lot of adults as well). This kind of content is what you could reasonably expect to find in a pornographic magazine. This book is well-known to be controversial and many find it **wholly inappropriate for it to be placed in the children's section as opposed to being placed in the Parenting section.**

3) For what age group would you recommend this material?

Short answer: **NONE.**

My reason for submitting this form is because the **current placement of this book is where very young children can access it. As I stated earlier, this book ought to have no place in our community library, because it is pornographic, patently offensive, and very well could be considered criminally obscene based on current Texas law. Time will tell. Having access to it limited to adults only, such as in the Parenting section of the library, may be a good solution for the time being, should the request to remove from circulation be met with obduracy.**

4) Can you recommend anything good about this material?

Short answer: **NO.**

There is some scientifically accurate material in this book. Unfortunately, it is presented in a fashion that stimulates sexual activity in children, and that is reprehensible. I vehemently disagree with this kind of obscene and graphically pornographic material being made available to children. Again, such provision of materials to minors can reasonably be argued to be a **FELONY**. Some of the opinions and ideas within these pages run absolutely contrary to the community standards in Tyler and Smith County. Five-year-olds, 8-year-olds, 10-year-olds, don't need an instruction page on how to masturbate, perform oral sex, and put a condom on their erect penis. We can all agree that understanding you don't get HIV from visiting a sick friend is "accurate" but that's one paragraph of one section towards the end of the book, and certainly not the main idea of the book.

5) Did you read, view, or listen to this item in its entirety?

Yes.

6) Are you aware of the reviews received by this material? The librarian will be happy to help find them.

Yes, I have read the reviews.

Signature of Complainant Craig Licciardi

Address 309 Maggie Circle Flint TX 75762

Library Card Barcode # 28957001998870

Phone (903) 330-3053



Craig Licciardi
309 Maggie Circle
Flint, TX 75762

RE: Review of Request for Reconsideration; Tyler Public Library

Dear Mr. Licciardi,

Thank you for your interest in Tyler Public Library and submitting a Request for Reconsideration regarding your concern for *It's Perfectly Normal* by Robie H. Harris and Michael Emberley. A copy of your Request for Reconsideration, as well as a copy of the Library's Collection Development Policy for Reconsideration Appeals process, are attached hereto. Per our process as described in the Library's Policy, the request and item were reviewed by a Collection Development Review Committee ("Committee") and the results of the review are as follows.

While there have been several editions of the book since 1994, The Tyler Public Library currently holds the 15 and 20th anniversary prints within Juvenile Non-Fiction which have circulated 38 times without complaint from Library families. Library staff consider professional reviews, awards, and credentials in the process of selecting materials for the collection and each area of the Library.

It's Perfectly Normal has a reading recommendation for audiences ages 10 and up by the publisher and professional journals. The book has appeared on the New York Times bestseller list and received praise from Publishers Weekly, Kirkus, and The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books among others. The title is also a Parenting Reading Magic Award winner, a Boston Globe Horn Book winner, and received the Wil Solimene Award for Excellence in Medical Communication.

The Tyler Public Library believes that it is important for caregivers, parents, guardians, and grandparents to be guides to their children for the materials they check out. Per the Library's Circulation Policy, parents (or legal guardians) wishing to restrict their children's borrowing of library materials may do so at any time. We understand that not all persons will agree on what should be available to whom, the City of Tyler is bound by federal court decisions regarding the First Amendment, and no one set of beliefs or values can serve as the lens for developing a well rounded library collection. However, the Tyler Public Library respects all citizen comments and seeks to serve the entirety of the City of Tyler while also making memberships available for purchase to those who reside within Smith County.

In conclusion, the Tyler Public Library finds that the inclusion of *It's Perfectly Normal* within Juvenile Non-Fiction was appropriately placed, however the Library has decided to relocate the title from its current location to our Family Collection, which houses materials for parent/child discussion.

Sincerely,

Ashley Taylor
City Librarian