

Really, consent is about always choosing to respect personal and emotional boundaries. By practicing consent in everyday situations, you show that you value the choices of others.

**PEOPLE OFTEN THINK CONSENT IS ONLY IMPORTANT
WHEN IT COMES TO SEX.**

EVERYDAY CONSENT

EMBRACE YOUR VOICE



Sexual Assault
Awareness Month



ASK FOR CONSENT WHEN TOUCHING

- It's important to ask for consent before hugging, tickling, or other kinds of touch.
- Ask sincerely so others understand it's okay to say no.
- For people who have experienced sexual abuse, any unexpected touch can be scary and traumatic. Others may just prefer more personal space.

For example: "Is it okay if I put my arm around you?" or, "Want to hug or wave goodbye?"

RESPECT PRIVACY

- Everyone has boundaries. Some people like to keep things about themselves private, while others are more open.
- If someone shares personal information with you, it's important to ask what their boundaries are.

For example: "My cousin was assaulted and is afraid they will never feel okay again. Is it okay if I tell them that you're a survivor, too? It's all right if you're not comfortable with that."

ASK PERMISSION

- Just like everyone has different boundaries about touch, everyone has different levels of comfort about sharing things online, like photos.
- It is important to always ask before posting or tagging photos of someone on social media.

For example: "This is a great photo of all of us! Is it okay if I share it online, or should I take another one without the kids in it? I know you don't often post photos of them."

SEX AND CONSENT

- Sex without consent isn't sex. It's sexual assault.
- Consent must be freely given. A person must understand what they are agreeing to, and they can change their mind at any time.
- Consent needs to be clear and enthusiastic. The absence of "no" or silence does not mean "yes."
- Past consent does not mean current or future consent.
- When drugs and alcohol are involved, clear consent is not possible. A person who is intoxicated or impaired cannot give consent.

HOW TO HANDLE THE "NO"

- Whenever you're asking for someone's consent, they could say "no."
- Accept the answer and move on. Don't pressure someone to change their mind.
- It's okay to feel disappointed with a "no" answer. But always remember that respecting boundaries is the right thing to do.