

Tekst 3

Children get sex lessons from soaps

Ben Dowell

1 TWO THIRDS of children are getting their
information about sex and relationships from
soap operas and adult chat shows such as
Jerry Springer's, new research will reveal this
5 week.

2 The two-year study, commissioned by
broadcasters and regulators, found the shows
were regarded as a "useful" source for the
"facts of life" by children aged 9 to 17.
10 Almost 80% of those questioned believed
their parents underestimated their sexual
knowledge, drawn from programmes such as
EastEnders and the Jerry Springer show, all of
which are broadcast before 9pm.

3 15 While critics claim it is evidence of
children getting a dysfunctional view of
sexual relationships, the researchers argue it
is providing them with a better insight than
sex-education classes at school. "Children
20 feel that schools don't talk about the
emotional complexities of the subject of sex
and relationships, which television does,"
says a source close to the report, compiled by
researchers at the Institute of Education, part
25 of the University of London. Teaching in
schools is said to be "too narrow" and
"moralistic".

4 Susan Stranks, former presenter of the
children's show Magpie and a broadcasting
30 campaigner, however, was concerned that
young children, particularly, could start to see
troubled relationships as the norm. "My
concern is that programmes like The Jerry
Springer Show present a distorted picture of
35 relationships as always being damaging and
problematic."

5 The study, to be published tomorrow, was
based on in-depth interviews and workshops
with more than 800 children across England.

40 It confirmed that the vast majority of children
– 89% – had a television in their bedroom.
Two-thirds said they had seen a programme or
video with too much sex in it. Yet only a third
of those switched it off. Although television
45 was a key source for information about sex,
two-thirds still said their mother was as
important in learning about the facts of life.

6 What most startled the researchers was the
knowhow of youngsters and the ease with
50 which they discussed subjects formerly
considered taboo for minors. A nine-year-old
girl told researchers that exposure to sex and
marriage break-ups was "normal", adding:
"They are a part of society even if you don't
55 agree with them."

7 They also understood how the media might
be manipulating them. For example, two 12-
year-old girls told the researchers: "They use
HIV storylines in soaps to get people
60 interested just so they can make more
money." And many thought people "faked"
problems in order to appear on shows such as
Jerry Springer's.

8 The findings, however, confirmed the fears
65 of some experts that children were being
introduced to sex at an increasingly younger
age. John Beyer, director of the campaign
group Mediawatch, said: "At a time when the
government is trying to clamp down on
70 teenage pregnancy, too many programmes
have an obsession with all manner of sexual
perversion and I am not surprised to hear
children feel they know more about sex than
their parents."

9 75 Zoë Ball, the former children's television
presenter who has a three-year-old son, said
television's impact could be overestimated. "I
don't think that any amount of chat shows or
soaps can replace what kids learn in the
80 playground from each other," said Ball.
"Their bodies change and life just takes over."

The Sunday Times

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- “new research” (regel 4)
- 1p **4** Op welke twee manieren hebben de onderzoekers volgens het artikel de onderzoeksgegevens verzameld?
- “While critics claim ... sexual relationships” (regels 15-17)
- 2p **5** Geef voor elk van de onderstaande personen aan of deze wel of niet het standpunt van deze “critics” deelt.
- 1 “a source close to the report” (regel 23)
2 “Susan Stranks” (regel 28)
3 “John Beyer” (regel 67)
4 “Zoë Ball” (regel 75)
Noteer elk nummer, gevolgd door “wel” of “niet”.
- 1p **6** ■ How could the sentence “A nine-year-old ... with them.” (lines 51-55) also begin?
- A Besides, a nine-year-old...
B For example, a nine-year-old...
C However, a nine-year-old...
D Therefore, a nine-year-old...
- 1p **7** ■ Which of the following applies to the children discussed in paragraph 7?
- A They are easy to influence.
B They are hard to please.
C They are sensation-seeking.
D They are television-wise.
- 1p **8** ■ How can the tone of this article best be characterised?
- A As enthusiastic.
B As indifferent.
C As ironical.
D As neutral.