

Hugging BANNED from some Schools!

Written by Eryn Roberts
Thursday, 05 July 2012 00:00



Issue: Of all the things that schools could ban kids from doing, hugging is now apparently unacceptable behavior. Some schools in Arizona, New Jersey and Canada have banned hugging. Schools instituted the rules following some “incidents of unsuitable, physical interactions.” We have had roughly 30 years of “good touch/bad touch” programs in schools and communities, but almost all of the attention has been on bad touch. When we ban touch altogether, there are no opportunities for healthy contact. In school, the main benefit of touch is to build friendships and human connections, whether it is brushing one another’s hair or roughhousing playfully. Like adults, children touch to say hello and goodbye, to express affection, to test their strength, and to give and receive comfort.

Children need to be protected from violence and sexual assault, but we can’t monitor their physical contact every moment of their childhood, so they need the chance to work out the vast area of healthy contact. Some worry that we can’t trust kids to know the difference between healthy affection and unwanted sexual behavior, but couldn’t you tell the difference when you were in middle school? Anthony Pellegrini, a professor of psychology at the University of Minnesota who studies recess and rough-and-tumble play, has found that children can tell play fighting from real fighting much better than adults. Yet adults continue to believe that they are protecting children when they ban roughhousing.

Question: We all know kids are growing up faster these days, and there probably were students acting inappropriately, but is this the answer?

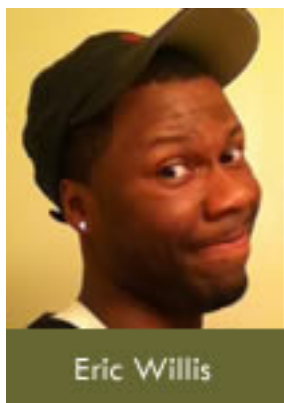
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Carmen Solomon

This is nothing more than an example of adults losing common sense. Suspending kids for holding hands



Eric Willis

I don't think the idea is that crazy. Why should any hugging be done in school? That is outside of the pla

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Corinne Adkins

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Kids hug, get over it! They wrap their arms around each other and walk, what is wrong with adults these



Desiree Wyatt

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Simple-minded people will always find simple-minded and impractical solutions to problems that don't ex

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□ **{jcomments on}**