

# What Kids Wanna Know

## *Why do we get boners?*

- The scientific name for a boner is an erection. And believe it or not, we know that penises practice erections even before babies are born! This is because the penis can only deliver sperm when it's hard, or erect. So, when people with penises are growing up, their penis may get hard for a few minutes and then soften up again. It can happen at any time, even when a person is writing a math test or fast asleep! We're glad that practice erections happen because they mean that the penis is working properly and preparing for adulthood. As people move through puberty an erection can be a response to sexual feelings and that's totally healthy too.

## *How do you get your erection to go away?*

- Live your life and it will go away when it's ready!

## *How big is the average penis?*

- Research tells us that the average size of an adult, erect (hard) penis is 5-6 inches long...not as big as you might think! What's interesting about the penis is that it is very slow growing. That is, it takes 10 years from the onset of puberty (age 8 or 9) to grow to adult size. Also interesting is that the testicles (the round shaped "balls" behind the penis) only take 3 years to grow to adult size. Sometimes kids think that their penis is shrinking because their testicles are getting bigger, faster. I reassure them that this is not the case! All body parts grow at different rates and that's healthy.

## *What's a birthmark?*

- A birthmark is just a collection of cells. We all have one, and no two birthmarks are alike...kind of like fingerprints! Not everyone can see their birthmark because they can be the same colour as our skin or on a place on our body we can't see, like on our scalp under our hair.

## *What is discharge?*

- One thing that makes the vagina amazing is that it cleans itself! It does this by constantly making moisture. The scientific name for this moisture is "discharge". Discharge usually looks like water when it comes out of the vagina, but when it dries it turns a whitish or yellowish colour. Sometimes people can see this in their underwear. Discharge is nothing to be worried about, it's perfectly normal and healthy. And is a good sign that the vagina is working properly!

