

Friendships, Partnerships and Sexuality in PWS

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Key Question

- Healthy relationships are a key factor in living a quality life. Disruptions in appropriate social skills, cognitive impairments and challenges in day-to-day living can impact a person's ability to form and keep relationships. Is a person less deserving of meaningful relationships simply because they need more support in creating and keeping them or should we, as caregivers, work to create an environment where relationships skills can be learned and improved upon with practice and support?

Important Information

Hot Topic

No Right or Wrong answers

Our own Observations

Respect one another

Facilitate Discussion

Ask Questions!!!!

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Meet Neil and Patrice

Intros

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Friendships

- Definition
 - The need for early socialization
 - Risks vs. Benefits
 - Facilitating Friendships
 - Maintaining Healthy Friendships
 - What can go wrong?
 - Reflections
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Defining Friendship

Let's Define what friendship
means to you



We all have differing views of
what friendship mean us and how
we define what friendship means



Now, Let's define friendship from
the point of view of someone with
PWS



Complexity



Early Socialization

- What do we mean by "Early Socialization"?
- Tendency to Protect children
- Play groups
- School
- Clubs

Facilitating Friendships

- Our role we can play in facilitating friendships
- When and why do we intervene
- Our definition of a good friend is not universal



Maintaining Healthy Friendships



The
honeymoon
is over

Egocentric
nature

Theory of
mind


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What Can Go Wrong

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Partnerships/Relationships

- Definitions
 - Family
 - Friendship/acquaintances
 - Professional/community relationships/paid caregivers
 - Sexual relationships
 - Maintaining relationships
 - What could go wrong?
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Definition of Relationships



How do we
define
relationships?

Many different
types of
relationships

Family



Parents

Siblings

Extended
family

Professional/Community Relationships



Paid carers

Access to the
correct training

Professional
boundaries

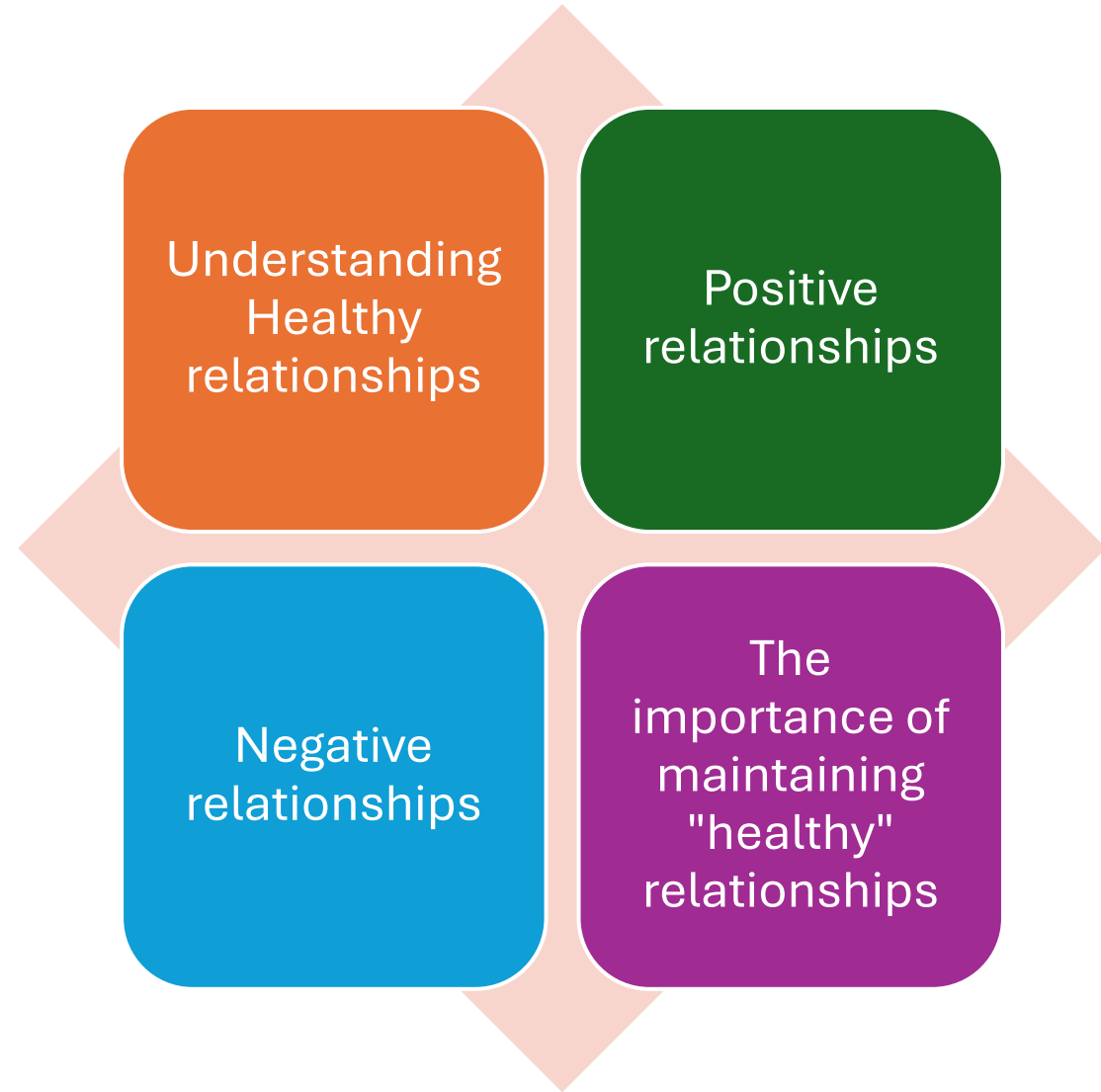
Health
professionals

-Care giving
understanding

-Community of
Practice (all
working on the
same page)


Community
Relationships

Maintaining Relationships





Sex and Sexuality

- PWS vs. Neurotypical sexual functioning
 - Define sexual relationships
 - Mechanics/anatomy considerations
 - Ideas of sexuality/informed consent
 - Shelter or explore? The dignity of risk
 - What could go wrong?
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Mechanics/anatomy
considerations

- How it all works for someone with PWS:
 - Delayed or incomplete Puberty
 - Hypogonadism
 - Decreased function in the ovaries and testes
 - Small Genitalia
 - Reduced Libido

Sexual Relationships

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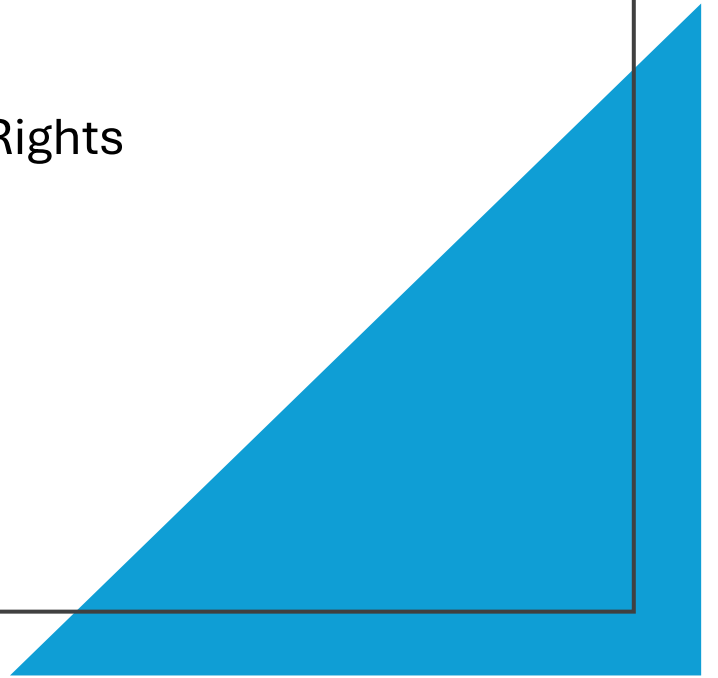
Boyfriends and girlfriends

Boundaries

Access to appropriate training for both carers and participants

Understanding Consent

- The education of consent
- Services in your area
- UN Declaration of Human Rights



What Can Go Wrong?





Scenarios/Breakout Groups

- Instructions for breakout groups
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