

How should educators respond when a teen says, “I think I’m Gay”?

1. Give facts and reassurance. Homosexuality is not inborn. Sexual confusion is normal during the teen years. Sexual confusion can correct by age 17.
2. Find out if there has been any kind of abuse in the home.
3. Follow the mandated reporting laws, if applicable.
4. Find out what is going on at home.
5. Consider referral for family therapy.
6. Focus on underlying issues.
7. Do not reject them. People who are struggling with homosexuality feel vulnerable, are sensitive to rejection, and fear other’s hostility. No one, especially a young person, should feel that way for any reason.
8. End any harassment. Harassment of any teen for any reason needs to end. This is a disciplinary issue.
9. Let them know where to get help. If the young person insists he or she is gay and wishes to pursue it, they have free will. Make them aware of the diseases and dangerous situations. Talk about exploitation, co-dependency, and infidelity. Heterosexual teens have a lot of this to cope with, homosexual teens possibly more so.