

the building blocks of consent

1

APPROPRIATE AGE

Each person must be old enough to make the decision they are being asked to make. Also, an older person should not use age, experience, or knowledge to trick or manipulate a young person.

2

EQUAL POWER

Power is the ability to influence the actions and choices of others. If someone has power over another, it can be challenging for the person with less power to assert boundaries, or they may feel pressure to say 'yes'. Consent isn't possible if someone doesn't feel like they have a choice.

3

FREELY GIVEN

Consent is given because the person wants to, not because they have been pressured or forced. For consent to be possible, "no" must also be as much of an option as "yes."

4

ENTHUSIASTIC "YES!"

Consent is more than just the lack of a "no." We want to be able to tell the person is excited to do whatever it is we have asked.

5

UNDERSTOOD

Everyone must clearly understand what they are consenting to: this means that consent is not possible under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Additionally, consent is specific to that activity and cannot be assumed for activities beyond that.

6

REVERSIBLE

If a person says yes to something, and then decides that they want to change their mind, the activity that has started must stop.