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This document will address the identities of Asexual and Aromantic as well as Intersex and discuss important topics associated with them.

Items of Note:

- Different Experiences of Sexual and Romantic Attraction:
 - Each individual person experiences different amounts of sexual and romantic attraction towards others. Some experience strong amounts while others experience very little.
 - There is nothing wrong with the amount and type of attraction someone may feel towards another, provided they are not causing any harm.
 - Some people naturally feel very little or no sexual or romantic attraction to others. These people would be asexual and/or aromantic.
 - A person can be aromantic and asexual or just one these identities.

- Biological Sex and Characteristics:
 - Biological sex is determined by five items that are present at birth. These would be:
 - the presence or absence of a Y Chromosome
 - The type of gonads (testes or ovaries),
 - The sex hormones,
 - the internal genitalia
 - The external genitalia.
 - Using these five items people are divided into two sexes, male and female. However, that does not mean that everyone fits into them perfectly. Some people are born with a mix of characteristics rather than just male ones or just female ones.

This document serves as supplementary material for the EFCL video series "Identity Education". To access that series please visit:



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Identity Explanations:

- **Asexual:** A person who experiences little or no sexual attraction. This is separate from who you are attracted to and more how you are attracted to someone.
- **Aromantic:** A person who experiences little or no romantic attraction to others. They are people generally more satisfied with non-romantic relationships such as friendship.
- **Intersex:** Someone who was born with sex characteristics that are not in line with the sex binary. This means they were not all male characteristics or not all female characteristics.

Things to Know:

- Asexual/Ace and Aromantic/Aro
 - Asexual and aromantic are often shortened to “ace” for ease and convenience. As well aromantic specifically may be shortened to “aro”
- Asexual does not mean a person is “a plant”:
 - Asexual is most commonly associated with asexual reproduction most commonly undergone by plants or organisms. This is not at all what asexual means when applied to humans.
- Relationships and being Ace:
 - When someone is ace or aro this does not mean they can not have healthy enjoyable relationships with others. For example, someone who is aromantic may strongly enjoy non-romantic relationships and may be sexually interested in someone but not romantically.

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Things to Know - Intersex:

- How common are intersex people?
 - There is a common myth that intersex people are extremely rare. This is actually false. Intersex people are estimated to make up 1.5 - 2.0% of the population which is about the same proportion of people who are born with red hair.
 - Thinking of it like that, if you know someone who has red hair, odds are you know someone who may intersex.
- Issues for the Intersex community:
 - A huge issue for the Intersex community is unauthorized corrective surgeries used to assign a sex to newborns, which can leave them with life long discomfort, pain, reduced sensitivity and difficulties.
 - Often times these surgeries are performed by a doctor who is assigning a sex to the child based on a guess rather than hard factual evidence.
 - It may also be done without the parent's knowledge or consent and can be done for simple cosmetic reasons rather than because of a health issue.

For more information, please consider viewing the following links:

- <https://www.health.com/sex/asexual-aromantic-sexuality>
- <http://www.michianaglbcenter.org/difference-aromantic-asexual/>
- <https://www.todayparent.com/baby/baby-health/intersex-when-a-baby-isnt-quite-boy-or-girl/>
- http://www.isna.org/faq/what_is_intersex

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