

Dear Peter

Don't worry – there is nothing wrong with you. Boys' penises start growing during puberty, which is usually between 11 and 15 years but can begin earlier or later. It's natural for teenage boys to compare their penises, but since everyone reaches puberty at different times, it's normal for boys of the same age to have different size penises.

Even when your body is fully grown, there is no 'normal' or 'correct' size penis. People are different sizes – so are penises!

Also, the size of your penis has little to do with how much pleasure you give your partner when you have sex. The secret is how you use your penis and other parts of your body to make your partner and you feel good. Women generally like a lot of touching and kissing before the penis goes inside, as they get sexually excited more slowly than men. People also enjoy sex more if they're with someone who cares about them and finds out what they like and dislike. It is easier to have this kind of relationship when you are older and more ready to talk about what you want.

Auntie Stella

ACTION POINTS

- Penis size is not important to a happy relationship but what is? (Think about your personality and how you behave, not only what you look like.)
- Write your name at the top of a sheet of paper and pass it round your group. When you get someone's paper, write what you find attractive about them. (For example: *You've got a wonderful smile/ I like your strong shoulders/You've got beautiful curly hair.*) Sign your name if you want to. When your own paper comes back to you, you will see what people admire about you.
- Is there somewhere or someone in your community willing to give you reliable advice about issues like your body, sex and relationships – your family, school, clinic or church? Discuss or try out these places to see which are most sympathetic and helpful. You have the right to ask any question and get honest answers and practical help.
- If there is not enough information and support for young people in your area, what can you do about it? Is there a youth centre near you or could you start one? Share your ideas and choose the most practical.