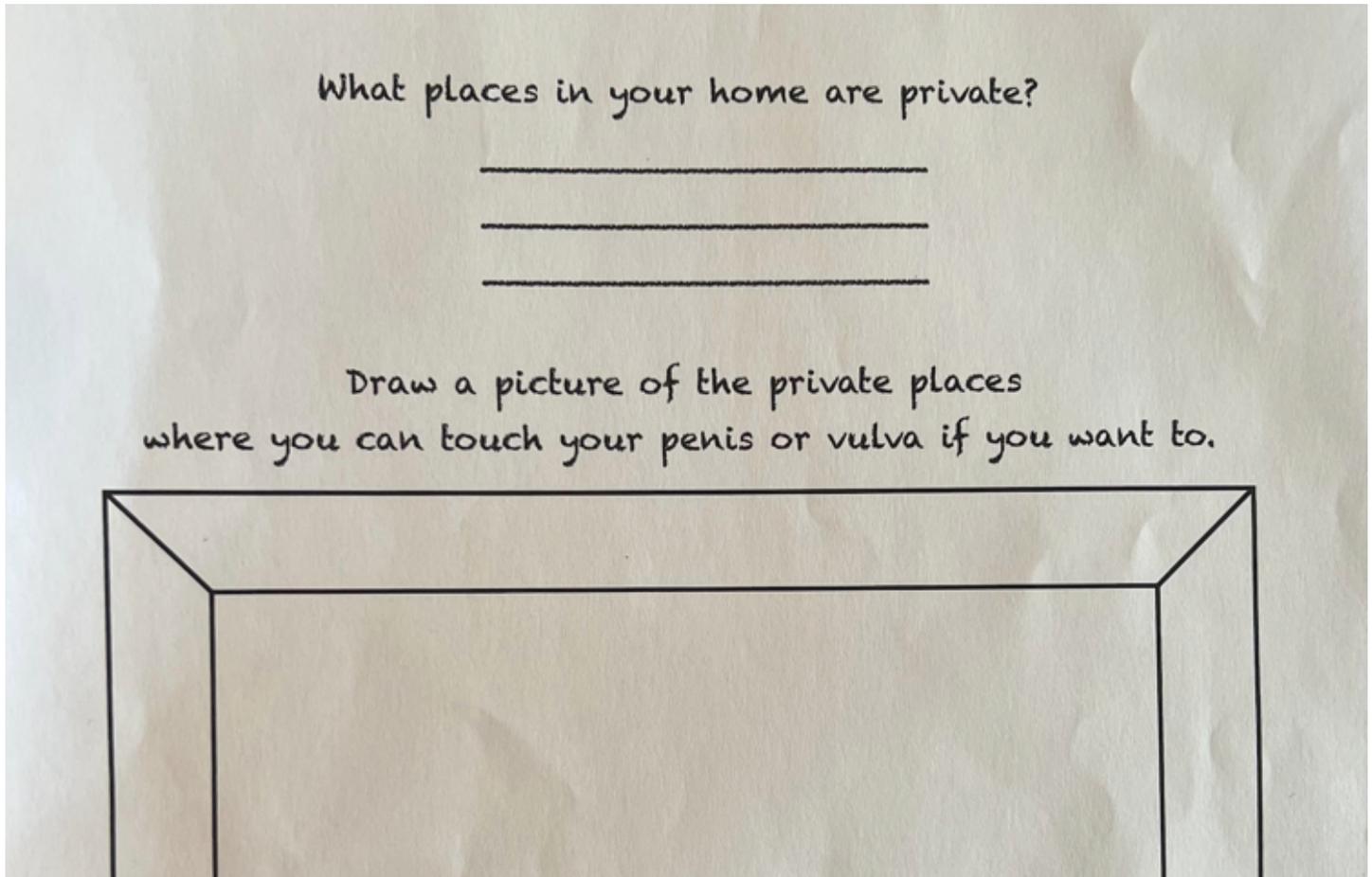


FEATURED

BC teacher gives four-year-olds masturbation assignment

By Reid Small
May 13, 2022



Kindergarten assignment

Provided by the four-year-old student's mother.

A British Columbia school teacher sent kindergarten students home with an assignment about masturbation, according to one of the student's parents.

The mother of a four-year-old girl who attends Tlisa'agi'lakw School, located in Alert Bay, BC, just off the northern tip of Vancouver Island, said she was shocked when her daughter told her about the assignment she had been sent home with.

"I read it and said 'we are absolutely not doing this,'" the mother — who asked to be identified by her initials, SG — told the *Western Standard* Friday.

The assignment requested that kindergarten students, ages four and five, draw a picture of the private places in their homes where "you can touch your penis or vulva if you want to."

SG plastered her concerns to social media but has since deleted the posts after talking to the school's principal who, according to SG, was mortified.

"She was in absolute horror," SG said, highlighting the principal's disbelief.

Upon speaking to the teacher in question, the principal confirmed SG's concerns were indeed true. The assignment — which SG says was not part of the teacher's approved curriculum — was issued with neither parental or the school's consent.

"I went in for a meeting to tell them exactly what happened; they were going to interview the teacher after and there was going to be an investigation, which is still ongoing," said SG.

The school is part of the 'Namgis First Nation, which — in addition to the school — was unaware of the assignment.

"Everyone was absolutely horrified," she said.

The school's principal told the *Western Standard* she was not "allowed" to discuss the incident at the time, respectfully directing inquiries to the band manager, Jamie Hill. However Hill's secretary said he is out of his office until Monday.

"I just want the public to know that this has nothing to do with our community," said SG, further reiterating that only one teacher is responsible.

"They are taking this very seriously. Our community cares about protecting our youth; we don't want this for our children," said the girl's mother.

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Reid Small is a BC Reporter for the Western Standard and West Coast Standard based in the Vancouver Bureau. He has worked as a freelance photojournalist and in independent media.
