

Never Been Kissed Parents Guide



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In the realm of romantic comedies, "Never Been Kissed" stands out as a charming blend of humor, nostalgia, and life lessons, making it a noteworthy film for audiences of various ages. Directed by Raja Gosnell and released in 1999, the film stars Drew Barrymore as Josie Geller, a 25-year-old journalist who goes undercover as a high school student to research teenage culture. While it offers a lighthearted take on the trials of adolescence, it also brings up themes that are significant for parents to consider before allowing their children to watch. This comprehensive guide will provide parents with all the necessary information about the film's content, themes, and potential impact on young viewers.

Overview of "Never Been Kissed"

"Never Been Kissed" follows the journey of Josie Geller, who, despite being an adult, grapples with the insecurities and experiences of high school life. As she immerses herself in this environment, she encounters various social dynamics, including the pressures of popularity, romance, and self-acceptance. The film is well-known for its humorous take on the highs and lows of adolescence while offering poignant moments that resonate with audiences.

Content Breakdown

Before allowing your child to watch "Never Been Kissed," it is essential to understand the film's content. Below is a breakdown of the film's themes and notable elements.

Language

While "Never Been Kissed" is generally family-friendly, it does contain some instances of mild

profanity. Parents should be aware of the following:

- Occasional uses of words like "damn" and "hell."
- A few scenes include mild insults among students.
- The overall tone remains light and humorous rather than aggressive or offensive.

Sexual Content

The film explores themes of romance and first love, resulting in some suggestive scenes and discussions:

- Kissing: The title of the film refers to Josie's status as an adult who has never been kissed, which is a recurring theme. There are scenes that depict kissing and romantic encounters.
- High School Dating: The film showcases typical high school dating scenarios, including crushes and misunderstandings.
- Suggestive Dialogue: Some conversations between characters may include innuendo or references to sexual situations, though they are handled in a lighthearted manner.

Substance Use

There are minimal depictions of substance use in "Never Been Kissed." Notably:

- A few scenes portray teenage drinking at parties, but the consequences of such behavior are not glorified.
- The film does not focus on drug use and remains relatively tame in this aspect.

Thematic Elements

Several themes emerge throughout the film that parents may want to discuss with their children:

- Self-acceptance: Josie's journey emphasizes the importance of loving oneself and being true to one's identity.
- Friendship: The film highlights the significance of genuine friendships and the challenges of navigating social circles.
- Bullying: There are instances of bullying among high school students, providing a platform for discussing the impact of such behavior.

Positive Messages

It's important for parents to recognize the positive messages conveyed in "Never Been Kissed":

- Embracing Vulnerability: Josie's character illustrates that it's okay to be vulnerable and open about one's insecurities.

- **Courage to Change:** The film demonstrates the courage it takes to step out of one's comfort zone and embrace new experiences.
- **Growth and Maturity:** Josie's journey reflects personal growth, teaching viewers that maturity comes from understanding oneself better.

Potential Concerns

While "Never Been Kissed" is largely lighthearted, there are some potential concerns that parents may wish to consider:

- **Inappropriate Behavior:** Josie's undercover mission leads to ethical dilemmas, such as deceiving both students and faculty. This can open up discussions about honesty and integrity.
- **Romantic Relationships:** The film portrays a romantic relationship between Josie and her high school teacher, which may prompt discussions about appropriate relationships and boundaries.
- **Social Pressure:** The depiction of high school dynamics can serve as a reminder of the social pressures faced by teenagers, which may resonate with younger viewers.

Rating and Age Recommendations

"Never Been Kissed" is rated PG-13, which signifies that some material may be unsuitable for children under 13. The film's content includes mild language, suggestive themes, and romantic situations. Here are some recommendations to consider:

- **Recommended Age:** While it is rated PG-13, many parents find that children as young as 10 or 11 may enjoy the film with parental guidance, especially if they have an understanding of the themes discussed.
- **Parental Guidance:** It may be beneficial for parents to watch the film alongside their children to address any questions or concerns that arise during viewing.

Discussion Points for Parents and Children

Engaging in a dialogue after watching "Never Been Kissed" can enhance the viewing experience and help children process the film's themes. Here are some discussion points:

1. How does Josie's experience in high school compare with your own?
2. What do you think is the most important lesson Josie learns throughout the film?
3. How should one handle peer pressure or bullying in a school environment?
4. What are the qualities of a healthy friendship or romantic relationship?
5. How does the film portray the importance of being true to oneself?

Conclusion

"Never Been Kissed" is a delightful romantic comedy that captures the essence of adolescence while imparting valuable life lessons. While it contains some content that may prompt parental concern, the overall message promotes self-acceptance, friendship, and personal growth. By understanding the film's themes and discussing its content with children, parents can create a meaningful viewing experience that goes beyond entertainment. Ultimately, "Never Been Kissed" serves as a reminder that growing up is a journey filled with both challenges and triumphs, making it a film worth sharing with the family.

Frequently Asked Questions

What age group is 'Never Been Kissed' suitable for?

'Never Been Kissed' is generally suitable for teens and older children, typically rated PG-13 due to its mild language, sexual references, and themes.

Are there any strong themes that parents should be aware of in 'Never Been Kissed'?

Yes, the film explores themes of self-acceptance, the pressures of high school, and the importance of being true to oneself, which may prompt meaningful discussions about peer relationships.

Does 'Never Been Kissed' contain any inappropriate content that parents should consider?

The film contains some mild sexual innuendos and language, so parents might want to preview it or discuss its content with their children beforehand.

How can parents use 'Never Been Kissed' as a teaching moment?

Parents can use the film to discuss topics like bullying, the importance of kindness, and the significance of being authentic in relationships.

Is there any violence or intense scenes in 'Never Been Kissed'?

No, 'Never Been Kissed' does not contain any violence or intense scenes, making it a light-hearted romantic comedy suitable for family viewing.

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