

The Advocate

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Burnaby Teen Gets Over Awkwardness

And Becomes Champion for Younger Brother

My brother Fayeze has cerebral palsy. Back in the 90s when we were in our teens, he heard our mum yelling at me when she found my Penthouse magazines. He asked what they were, and could I get him some? I was surprised he was interested. But it got me thinking...

“I was surprised he was interested...”

Fayeze’s arms are kind of different from most people’s, so when I was giving him the magazines, I asked if he could reach himself to masturbate. (Yes - it was totally awkward! But who else was going to ask him about this stuff?) He said he could, but only if he was sitting up a certain way in bed. Then he asked if I would help him



Fayeze and Ahmed in 1997

sit up that way with a magazine, and get the hell out of his room....

When he moved into the group home, I told the staff there that Fayeze needs alone time, and that he needs the staff to help him buy him magazines and lube. Together we showed them how he needs to sit up in bed if he’s going to reach himself. The staff come and go... *(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1) at the house, and sometimes the new ones don't know these things about Fayeze. So I always make sure to ask about it when I visit him.



Over the years I've learned to be more relaxed about discussing this stuff. I think it helps the staff

to relax and talk about it too.

This spring, Fayeze's arm changed a bit so he needed an adapted sex toy if he was still going to masturbate. The staff and I worked together to find an occupational therapist who was ok to help make one. That wouldn't have happened a few years ago. I would have felt too shy to discuss it.

I keep hoping Fayeze might get a girlfriend one day. He's told me it's something he wants. Until then, though, at least he can take care of business on his own. Like a lot of us do...

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