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Ne-Yo Questions Best Practice Care for Transgender Youth: 'I Don't Understand'

"When did it become a good idea to let a 5-year-old, let a 6-year-old, let a 12-year-old make a life-changing decision for themselves?" the singer asked.

By Ashley Iasimone +
08/5/2023

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THE DAILY



Ne-Yo performs onstage at House Of BET on June 25, 2022 in Los Angeles.
Paras Griffin/GI for BET

A daily briefing on what matters in the music industry

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Liste

EXPLORE



Ne-Yo ([/artist/ne-yo](#))

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Ne-Yo

([https://www.billboard.com/artist/ne-](https://www.billboard.com/artist/ne-yo/)

yo/ shared his thoughts on how to parent transgender children and questioned minors' rights to receive

gender-
affirming
care in a
new
interview.

The singer,
a dad of
seven
children,
spoke for
several
minutes on
the topic
during a
conversation
with Gloria
Velez [for](#)
[VladTV](#)
[\(<https://youtu.be/EYtXYCVXuxc>\)](https://youtu.be/EYtXYCVXuxc).

Ne-Yo
prefaced
what he was
about to say
with “I have

no issue
with LBG —
I have no
problem
with nobody.
You love
who you
love, you do
what you
do.”

“I just
personally
come from
an era
where a
man was a
man and a
woman was
a woman,”
said Ne-Yo.

“And there
was two
genders,
and that’s

just how I
rocked. You
could
identify as a
goldfish if
you feel like,
I don't care.
That ain't
my
business. It
becomes
my business
when you
try to make
me play the
game with
you. I'm not
gonna call
you a
goldfish. But
if you wanna
be a
goldfish, you
go be a
goldfish. We

live in a
weird time,
man. We
do.”

Later in the
chat he
added, “I
feel like
parents
have almost
forgotten
what the
role of a
parent is. If
your little
boy comes
to you and
says,
‘Daddy, I
want to be a
girl.’ And
you just let
him rock
with that?

He's 5 ... If
you let this
5-year-old
boy decide
to eat candy
all day, he's
gonna do
that. When
did it
become a
good idea to
let a 5-year-
old, let a 6-
year-old, let
a 12-year-
old make a
life-
changing
decision for
themselves?
When did
that
happen? I
don't
understand."

“He can’t
drive a car
yet, but he
can decide
his sex?”
asked Ne-
Yo, referring
to a child
who
identifies
that their
gender is
different
from the sex
they were
assigned at
birth. A
misinformed
Velez
replied,
“And he can
cut off his
pee pee.”

“I can’t take

credit for it,”

Ne-Yo said

toward the

end of the

interview

clip, “but I

heard

somebody

say one

time, if your

son comes

to you and

says,

‘Daddy, I

want to be a

girl,’ ask

your son,

‘Son, what

is a girl?’

What is he

gonna do?

He might

want to play

with dolls.

All right, you

want to play
with dolls.
Play with
dolls. But
you're a boy
playing with
dolls. 'I want
to wear
pink.' Cool,
wear pink,
but you're a
boy wearing
pink."

The [American
Medical
Association
\(\[<https://www.billboard.com/music/music-news/ne-yo-transgender-kids-parents-gender-affirming-care-1235385833/>\]\(https://www.americanmedicalassociation.org/press-center/press-releases/american-medical-association-reinforces-opposition-to-restrictions-on-transgender-</p></div><div data-bbox=\)](https://www.americanmedicalassociation.org/press-center/press-releases/american-medical-association-reinforces-opposition-to-restrictions-on-transgender-)

[medical-](#)

[care\)](#),

the [American](#)

[Academy](#)

[of](#)

[Pediatrics](#)

<https://publications.aap.org/aapnews/news/19021/AAP->

[continues-](#)

[to-support-](#)

[care-of-](#)

[transgender?](#)

[autologincheck=redirected\)](#) and

the [American](#)

[Psychological](#)

[Association](#)

<https://www.apa.org/monitor/2018/09/ce->

[corner\)](#), all

agree that

gender-

affirming

care is not

dangerous

for trans

youth, and

in most

cases, it's
highly
beneficial
and life-
saving.

When trans
youth
receive
gender-
affirming
care, that
does not
typically
include the
kind of
surgical
intervention
Velez
implied in
her
conversation
with Ne-Yo.
Both
the [Endocrine](#)

Society

([https://www.endocrine.org/clinical-](https://www.endocrine.org/clinical-practice-guidelines/gender-dysphoria-gender-incongruence#5)

practice-

guidelines/gender-

dysphoria-

gender-

incongruence#5) and

the World

Professional

Association

for

Transgender

Health

(<https://www.wpath.org/publications/soc>) do

not

recommend

surgical

intervention

before age

18, unless

the patient,

their doctor

and a

mental

health

professional
all agree
that
intervention
is
necessary.

[Gender-](#)

[affirming](#)

[care](#)

<https://www.billboard.com/culture/pride/gender->

[affirming-](#)

[care-](#)

[explained-](#)

[brittany-](#)

[aldean-](#)

[1235135107/](#)

for minors
may focus
on gender
expression,
publicly
changing
pronouns
and names,

and using
puberty
blockers,
which delay
permanent
physical
change
while the
patient
decides how
they want to
proceed
with their
transition. In
later
teenage
years, well-
established
patients
may begin
gender-
affirming
hormone
treatment.

Late
Saturday
night, Ne-Yo
responded
to news
headlines
reporting
that he
“condemns”
parents who
support and
allow minors
to seek
gender-
affirming
care.

He
commented
from his
official
Instagram
account on
a [post from
Hollywood](#)

Unlocked

(<https://www.instagram.com/p/Cvlf6var->

kv/?

img_index=1),

writing: “1st

and

foremost, I

CONDEMN

NO ONE.

Who am I to

condemn

anybody?

Your life,

your kids,

your choice.

I was asked

a question

and I

answered it.

My opinion

is mine. I’m

not asking

anybody to

agree with

me nor am I

telling you
what you
can and
cannot do
with your
children. I
stated my
opinion on a
matter and
that's that.
Why should
I care if my
opinion
upsets you
when you
don't care if
yours
upsets
anyone?
Opinions
aren't
special. We
all have
one. People
voice them

regularly
whether
they're
asked or
not. I was
actually
asked mine.
Agreeing to
disagree is
not a
declaration
of war. Y'all
do whatever
the hell y'all
want to. But
my feelings
on the
matter are
mine. Same
way yours
are yours.
Meanwhile, I
love
everybody.
Don't agree

with some of
y'all's
ideals....but
love you no
less.”

Interestingly,
in 2018, Ne-
Yo voiced
LGBTQ+
support.

When
Amanda
Lepore was
removed
from Travis
Scott's
Astroworld
album art,

[TMZ asked](#)

[Ne-Yo](#)

[\(https://www.billboard.com/music/music-
news/ne-
yo-
responds-](https://www.billboard.com/music/music-news/ne-yo-responds-)

to-
transgender-
model-
removal-
from-travis-
scott-
album-art-
8468638/)

his thoughts

on hip-hop

(<https://www.billboard.com/t/hip-hop/>)

embracing

the

community.

“If rap is not

embracing

them, that’s

the only

people that

ain’t

embracing

them,” he

replied at

the time. “It
doesn’t
make any
sense. I
mean,
they’re here,
they’re not
going
anywhere.
They’re
people just
like us, and I
feel like they
deserve the
same
respect.”

Ne-Yo
released his
latest studio
album, *Self
Explanatory*,
in July 2022.

Update: On
Sunday, Ne-

*Yo issued
an apology
for his
comments,
noting that
“gender
identity is
nuanced
and I can
honestly
admit that I
plan to
better
educate
myself on
the topic, so
I can
approach
future
conversations
with more
empathy.”
Read his full
statement
[here](#)*

[\(https://www.billboard.com/music/music-news/ne-yo-apology-gender-identity-comments-1235385934/\)](https://www.billboard.com/music/music-news/ne-yo-apology-gender-identity-comments-1235385934/).

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EVERY
IN T
MUS
BUSIN
IS
he TALK
n ABOUT

**WHAT
DO YOU
THINK?**

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survey...



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