

Sexualized Behaviors

Preschool-Age Children

Natural/Healthy	Of Concern	Seek Professional Help
Touches/rubs own genitals when diapers are being changed, when going to sleep, when tense/excited/afraid or because it feels good	Continues to touch/rub genitals in public after being told “no” consistently	Touches/rubs self to the exclusion of normal childhood activities. Hurts own genitals by touching/rubbing
Explores differences between males and females, boys and girls.	Continuous questions on genital differences after all questions have been answered.	Plays male or female roles in angry, sad or aggressive manner. Hates own or other sex.
Touches the “private parts” of familiar adults and children with hand or body.	Touches/rubs the “private parts” of familiar children or adults after they have been told consistently not to do so.	Sneakily touches/rubs the “private parts” of adults or children and, if questioned, deny it.
Takes advantage of opportunity to look at nude people.	Stares at nude people even after having seen many people nude.	Asks people to take off their clothes. Tries to forcibly undress people.
Asks about the genitals, breasts, intercourse, babies.	Keeps asking people even after parent has answered all questions at an age appropriate level.	Asks unfamiliar people after parent has answered all questions. Sexual knowledge too great for age.
Erections	Very frequent erections	Fearful of erections
Likes to be nude. May show others his/her genitals.	Wants to be nude in public after the parent repeatedly and consistently says no.	Refuses to put on clothes. Secretly shows “private parts” in public after being told no.
Interested in watching people doing bathroom functions.	Interest in watching bathroom functions does not wane after days/weeks.	Refuses to leave people alone in bathroom. Forces way into bathroom.
Interested in having/birthing a baby	Boys’ interest does not wane after several days/weeks of play about babies.	Displays fear or anger about babies, birthing or intercourse.
Child stand/sits too close to familiar adults and children.	Child stand/sits too close to unfamiliar adults and children.	With consistent reminders the child still stands/sits with familiar/unfamiliar adults resulting in person being uncomfortable
Uses “dirty” words for bathroom or sexual functions.	Uses “dirty” words at home after parent consistently says no - parents don’t swear.	Uses “dirty” words in public and home after strong scoldings - parents do not swear.
Interested in own feces.	Smears feces on walls or floor more than one time.	Repeatedly plays/smears feces after scolding. Angry when doing the behavior.
Plays “doctor” inspecting others’ bodies, including “private parts”.	Frequently plays “doctor” and gets caught, after being told no consistently.	Forces child to take off clothes and play “doctor”.
Puts something in own genitals or rectum one time for curiosity or exploration.	Puts/tries to put something in genitals or rectum of self or other after being told “no”.	Uses coercion, force, pain in putting something in genitals/rectum of self or other.
Plays house, acts out roles of mommy and daddy.	Humping other children with clothes on after being told not to.	Simulated or real intercourse without clothes; oral genital contact.

Kindergarten through Fourth Grade

Natural/Healthy	Of Concern	Seek Professional Help
Asks about the genitals, breasts, intercourse, babies.	Shows fear or anxiety about sexual topics.	Asks endless questions about sex after curiosity satisfied. Sexual knowledge too advanced for age.
Interested in watching/peeking at people during bathroom functions.	Keeps getting caught watching/peeking at others doing bathroom functions.	Refuses to leave people alone in the bathroom.
Uses “dirty” words for bathroom functions, genital and sexual behavior.	Uses “dirty” words with adults after the parent consistently says “no” and punishes child.	Continuously uses “dirty” language even after punishment and parents do not use these words.
Plays “doctor.” The child inspects another child’s body including private parts.	Frequently plays “doctor’ and gets caught after being told not to do so.	Forces child to take clothes off and touches/inserts something into child’s private parts.
Boys and girls are interesting in having a baby.	Boy keeps playing that he is having a baby after month(s).	Child displays fear or anger about babies or intercourse.
Touches/rubs own genitals when going to sleep, when tense, excited, afraid or because it feels good. Shows others genitals in private location.	Shows genitals in public. Continues to touch/rub genitals in public after being told no. Rubs genitals on furniture or other objects after being told no.	Shows genitals at school and/or other places to express anger or disdain for authority.
Plays house, may simulate roles of mommy and daddy.	Repeatedly humping other children with clothes on. Repeatedly initiates sexual behavior with toys.	Humping others while naked. Intercourse with another child. Forcing sexual contact on a child or adult.
Thinks other gender children are “gross” or “cooties”	Continues to use “dirty” language after other children really complain.	Uses bad language against other child’s family. Makes sexual threats.
Talks about sex with friends. Talks about having a boy/girl friend.	Sex talk gets child in trouble. Romanticizes or sexualizes all relationships.	Talks about sex and sexual acts habitually. Repeatedly in trouble for sexual talk.
Wants privacy when in the bathroom or changing clothes.	Becomes very upset when observed changing clothes, using the toilet or bathing.	Aggressive or fearful in demand for privacy.
Likes to hear or tell “dirty” jokes.	Keeps getting caught telling “dirty” jokes or making sexual sounds (moans, sighs)	Gets caught telling “dirty” jokes or making sexual sounds even after punishment.
Plays games with same aged children related to sex or sexuality.	Wants to play games related to sex with older, younger or unknown children.	Child forces others to play sexual games that make them feel uncomfortable.
Draws genitals on human figures for artistic expression or because figure is nude.	Draws genitals on some, but not all nude figures or on people with clothes. Genitals disproportionate to size of body.	Genitals stand out as most prominent feature of drawing. Drawings of intercourse, group sex, sex with animals, sadism, etc.
Explores differences between adult males, females, boys and girls.	Confused about male/female differences after all questions have been answered.	Plays male/female roles in sad, angry or aggressive manner exclusively.

Takes advantage of opportunity to look at nude people.	Stares/sneaks to stare at nude people after being told no or seeing many nude people.	Asks others to take off their clothes. Tries to forcibly undress children or adults.
Pretends to be opposite gender.	Talks very negatively about own gender.	Hates/fears being own gender. Hates own genitals.
Wants to compare genitals with peer-aged friends.	Wants to compare genitals with much older or younger people.	Demands to see the genitals, breasts or buttocks of others.
Looks at the genitals, buttocks or breasts of others.	Stares at the genitals, breasts or buttocks of others making them uncomfortable.	Continuously sneaks/peeks at genitals, breasts or buttocks of others after being caught many times.
Interest in touching genitals, breasts or buttocks of other same-age child or have child touch his/hers.	Makes others uncomfortable by requests to touch their genitals, breasts, or buttocks or have them touch his/her private parts.	Coerces unwilling child to touch his/her private parts. Forced or mutual oral, anal or vaginal sex.
Kisses/hugs familiar adults and children. Allows kisses/hugs by familiar adults and children.	French kissing. Talks/acts in a sexual manner with unknown children. Fearful of hugs and kisses by familiar adults. Anxious when seeing displays of affection. Kisses/hugs unfamiliar adult or child.	Talks/acts sexually with known or unknown adult or child that makes them feel uncomfortable. Physical contact with any adult causes agitation, anger, fear, or anxiety.
Looks at nude pictures on Internet, videos, magazines, etc.	Continuous fascination with nude pictures that gets child in trouble.	Wants to masturbate to nude pictures or display them.
Erections	Continuous erections or fear of erections.	Painful erections or hurting self to stop erection.
Puts something in own genitals/rectum for the physical sensation, curiosity or exploration.	Puts something in own genitals/rectum frequently or when it feels uncomfortable. Puts something in the genitals/rectum of other child.	Coercion or force putting/trying to put something in genitals/rectum of other child. Causes harm to own/others genitals/rectum.
Interest in breeding behavior of animals	Touching genitals of animals.	Sexual behaviors with animals.