

# Developmentally Normative/Common Sexual Conduct

(Friedrich, Fisher, Broughton, Houston & Shafran, 1998; NCSBY Fact Sheet; Kaeser, 2009)

## Developmentally Normative Sexual Behavior

Ages 2-6

- Enjoys own nudity
- Uses “potty” talk with peers
- Curious about sexual parts
- May explore body differences between girls and boys
- May touch private parts in public
- Sex play (playing doctor) with peers
- Experience pleasure touching their genitals

Ages 7-12

- Sex play (playing doctor) with known peers
- Interested in sexual content in media
- Touch own genitals at home, in private
- Look at nude pictures
- Interested in opposite sex
- Shy about undressing
- Shy around strange men

## Unusual Sexual Behavior Ages 2-12

- Puts mouth on sex parts
- Puts objects in rectum or vagina
- Masturbates with objects
- Touches others’ sex parts after being told not to
- Touches adults’ sex parts
- Asks to engage in sexual acts
- Imitates sexual intercourse
- Undresses other people
- Asks to view sexually explicit material
- Makes sexual sounds
- Continues sexually inappropriate talk or behavior after being told not to

## Understanding Sexual Play Ages 2-12

### Normative

- Exploratory and spontaneous
- Occurs intermittently
- Mutually agreed upon
- Occurs with peers
- Not associated with negative emotions (fear, anxiety, anger)
- Decreases when told by adults to stop
- Can be controlled via supervision

### Non-normative

- Goal oriented rather than exploratory
- Frequent and compulsive
- Aggressive, forced, coercive
- Not peer-to-peer
- Harmful to victim
- Does not decrease when told by adults to stop
- May continue even with increases in supervision
- Intrafamilial sexual behavior

## Understanding Sexual Behavior Ages 13-17

### Normative

It is not unusual for students in this age range to have interest in adult sexual behavior (that is to say goal oriented and/or penetrative sexual behavior). However, that is not to suggest that adult sexual behavior among students in this age range be encouraged, only that adult sexual behavior among this group is not generally regarded as pathological or predatory in itself.

### Sexual Concerning Behavior

- Targeted predatory sexual behavior
- Sexually impulsive/reckless behavior
- Aggressive, forced, coercive sexual behavior
- Not peer-to-peer
- Sexual behavior that harms or victimizes self or others
- Sexually concerning behavior that does not decrease when told by adults to stop
- Intrafamilial sexual behavior