

Behaviors Related to Sex & Sexuality

5TH - 8TH GRADE

NATURAL & HEALTHY

Very interested in sex and sexuality.
Asks about sexual materials and information.

Will want clarification on the meaning of sexual words, acts and personal values particularly with peers.

Is keenly interested in learning about body changes.

Curiosity about relationships and sexual behavior.

Feels okay or very embarrassed when caregivers want to talk about puberty and/or sexual topics.

Touches/rubs own genitals when alone.

Sexual experimentation between adolescents of the same age and gender is common.

Asks about consequences of sexual behavior.

Enjoys bathroom humor.

Plays games online with known friends.

OF CONCERN

Spends considerable amount of time seeking sexual images online.

Making sexual gestures and using sexual words at home/school/public.

Thinks of self or body as repulsive, dirty or bad.

Refuses to talk about a secret shared with an adult or older child.

Refuses to talk to caregivers about sexual topics. Angry with caregivers for wanting to talk about puberty and/or sexual topics.

Continues to touch/rub genitals in public places after being told "no".

Talks about a new older friend.

Has sudden change in eating habits, mood, school performance or friends.

Repeats jokes that are vulgar and promote violence.

Plays games online with people they have not met in person/strangers.

SEEK GUIDANCE

After receiving consequences, continues to view pornography; watches violent or child porn, or takes pictures/videos of own genitals/sexual behavior.

Repeatedly using sexual language or behaviors despite consequences.

Talks about specific adult sexual acts with details.

Exhibits adult-like sexual behaviors, language and knowledge.

Cries and runs away as if scared and/or disgusted regarding puberty and/or sexual topics.

Touches/rubs genitals in public after being ridiculed by peers and censured by authorities. Inserts unsafe/unhygienic objects in own genitals.

Develops new or unusual fear of certain people or places.

Participates in illegal sexual behaviors.

Any sexual behavior that demonstrates violence and/or power over another.

Pretending to be someone that they are not online, including their age, sexual experience, gender or sexuality.

Adapted from "Understanding Children's Sexual Behavior" by Toni Cavanagh Johnson, Ph.D.



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