

Behaviors Related to Sex and Sexuality in Preschool Children

Natural and healthy	Of concern	Seek professional help
Touches/rubs own genitals when diapers are being changed, when going to sleep, when tense, excited, or afraid	Continues to touch/rub genitals in public after being told many times not to do this	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 about genital differences after all questions have been answered	Plays male or female roles in an angry, sad, or aggressive manner. Hates own/other sex
Touches the private parts of familiar adults and children	Touches the private parts of adult not in family, unknown child, or familiar people after being told "no." Asks to be touched himself/herself	Sneakily touches adults. Makes others allow his/her touching, demands that others touch him/her
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 age appropriate level	Asks unfamiliar people after parent has answered all questions. Sexual knowledge too great for age

Erections	Continuous erections	Painful 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 self in public after many scoldings
Interested in watching people doing bathroom functions	Interest in watching bathroom functions does not wane in 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
Uses "dirty" words for bathroom and sexual functions	Continues to use "dirty" words at home after parent says "no"	Uses "dirty" words in public and at home after many scoldings
Interested in own feces	Smears feces on walls or floor more than one time	Repeatedly plays or smears feces after scolding
Plays doctor inspecting others' bodies	Frequently plays doctor after being repeatedly told "no"	Forces child to play doctor, to take off clothes
Puts something in own genitals or rectum one time for curiosity or exploration	Puts something in genitals or rectum of self or other after being told "no"	Any coercion, force, pain in putting something in genitals or rectum of self or other child
Plays house, acts out roles of mommy and daddy	Humping other children with clothes on	Simulated or real intercourse without clothes, oral sex

Behaviors Related to Sex and Sexuality in Kindergarten Through Fourth Grade Children

Natural and healthy	Of concern	Seek professional help
Asks about the genitals, breasts, intercourse, babies	Shows fear or anxiety about sexual topics	Endless questions about sex after curiosity satisfied. Sexual knowledge too great for age
Interested in watching/peeking at people doing bathroom functions	Keeps getting caught watching/peeking at others doing bathroom functions	Refuses to leave people alone in bathroom
Uses "dirty" words for bathroom functions, genitals, and sex	Uses "dirty" words with adults after parent consistently says "no," punishes child, and uses healthy language themselves	Continues use of "dirty" words even after exclusion from school and activities
Plays doctor, inspecting others' bodies	Frequently plays doctor and gets caught after being told "no"	Forces child to play doctor, to take off clothes
Boys and girls are interested in having/birthing a baby	Boy keeps making believe he is having a baby after month/s	Child displays fear or anger about babies or intercourse
Show others his/her genitals	Wants to be nude in public after the parent says "no" and punishes child	Refuses to put on clothes. Exposes self in public after many scoldings

Interest in urination and defecation	Plays with feces. Purposely urinates outside of toilet bowl	Repeatedly plays with or smears feces. Purposely urinates on furniture
Touches/rubs own genitals when going to sleep, when tense, excited, or afraid	Continues to touch/rub genitals in public after being told "no." Rubs genitals on furniture or other objects.	Touches/rubs self in public or in private to the exclusion of normal childhood activities. Rubs genitals on people
Plays house, may simulate all roles of mommy and daddy	Humping other children with clothes on. Imitates sexual behavior with dolls/stuffed toy	Humping naked. Intercourse with another child. Forcing sex on other child
Thinks other gender children are "gross" or have "cooties." Chases them	Uses "dirty" language when other children <i>really</i> complain	Uses bad language against other child's family. Hurts other gender children
Talks about sex with friends. Talks about having a girl/boy friend	Sex talk gets child in trouble. Romanticizes all relationships	Talks about sex and sexual acts habitually. Repeatedly in trouble with regard to sexual talk
Wants privacy when in bathroom or changing clothes	Becomes very upset when observed changing clothes	Aggressive or fearful in demand for privacy
Likes to hear and tell "dirty" jokes	Keeps getting caught telling "dirty" jokes. Makes sexual sounds, e.g. sighs, moans	Still tells "dirty" jokes even after exclusion from school and activities
Looks at nude pictures	Continuous fascination with nude pictures	Wants to masturbate to nude pictures or display them

Natural and healthy	Of concern	Seek professional help
Plays games with same-aged children related to sex and sexuality	Wants to play games with much younger/older children related to sex and sexuality	Child or children force others to play sexual games
Draws genitals on human figures for artistic expression or because figure is being portrayed in the nude	Draws genitals on some nude figures but not others or on drawings of clothed people. Genitals disproportionate to size of body	Genitals stand out as most prominent feature of drawing. Drawings of intercourse, group sex. Sadism, masochism shown
Explores differences between males and females	Confused about male/female differences after all questions have been answered	Plays male or female roles in a sad, angry, or aggressive manner. Hates own/other sex
Takes advantage of opportunity to look at nude people	Stares/sneaks to stare at nude people even after having seen many people nude	Asks people to take off their clothes. Tries to forcibly undress people
Pretends to be opposite gender	Wants to be opposite gender	Hates being own gender. Hates own genitals
Wants to compare genitals with peer-aged friends	Wants to compare genitals with much older or much younger people	Demands to see the genitals, breasts, buttocks of others

Interest in touching genitals, breasts, buttocks of other same-age child or have child touch his/hers	Continuously wants to touch genitals, breasts, buttocks of other child/ren. Tries to engage in oral, anal, vaginal sex	Manipulates or forces other child to allow touching of genitals, breasts, buttocks. Forced or mutual oral, anal, or vaginal sex
Kisses familiar adults and children. Allows kisses by familiar adults and children	French kissing. Talks in sexualized manner with others. Fearful of hugs and kisses by adults. Gets upset with public displays of affection. Kisses unfamiliar adult or child	Overly familiar with strangers. Talks/acts in a sexualized manner with unknown adults. Physical contact with adult causes excessive agitation to child or adult
Looks at the genitals, buttocks, breasts of others	Touches/stares at the genitals, breasts, buttocks of others. Asks others to touch him/her on these parts	Sneakily or forcibly touches genitals, breasts, buttocks of others. Tries to manipulate others into touching him or her
Erections	Continuous erections	Painful erections
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	Any coercion or force in putting something in genitals/rectum of other child. Causing harm to own/others genitals/rectum
Interest in breeding behavior of animals	Touching genitals of animals	Sexual behaviors with animals