

Appendix H: Sexual Behaviors and Ages of Consent

Examples of Sexual Behaviors in Children Ages 2 Through 6 Years ¹			
Normal, Common Behaviors	Less Common, Normal Behaviors	Uncommon Behaviors in Normal Children	Rarely Normal
☐ Touching/masturbating genitals in public/private ☐ Viewing/touching peer or new sibling genitals ☐ Showing genitals to peers ☐ Standing/sitting too close ☐ Tries to view peer/adult nudity ☐ Behaviors are transient, few, and distractible	☐ Rubbing body against others ☐ Trying to insert tongue in mouth while kissing ☐ Touching peer/adult genitals ☐ Crude mimic of movements associated with sexual acts ☐ Sexual behaviors that are occasionally, but persistently, disruptive to others ☐ Behaviors are transient and moderately responsive to distraction	☐ Asking peer/adult to engage in specific sexual act(s) ☐ Inserting objects into genitals ☐ Explicit imitation of intercourse ☐ Touching animal genitals ☐ Sexual behaviors that are frequently disruptive to others ☐ Behaviors are persistent and resistant to parental distraction	☐ Any sexual behaviors involving children who are four or more years apart ☐ A variety of sexual behaviors displayed on a daily basis ☐ Sexual behavior that results in emotional distress or physical pain ☐ Sexual behaviors associated with other physically aggressive behavior ☐ Sexual behaviors that involve coercion ☐ Behaviors are persistent and child becomes angry if distracted

¹ Retrieved on February 6, 2017, from <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/pediatrics/124/3/992.full.pdf>

Sexual Behaviors ¹	Abusive Sexual Behaviors
Children, Ages 7–10	
☐ Fondle and touch own genitals; masturbate ☐ Become more secretive about self-touching ☐ Interest in others' bodies becomes more game playing than exploratory curiosity (e.g., "I'll show you mine if you show me yours") ☐ Boys may begin comparing size of penis ☐ May develop extreme interest in sex, sex words, and dirty jokes ☐ Begin to seek information or pictures that explain bodily functions ☐ Touching may involve stroking or rubbing	☐ Sexual penetration ☐ Genital kissing ☐ Oral copulation (intercourse) ☐ Simulated intercourse ☐ Behavior involves coercion, threats, secrecy, violence, aggression, or developmentally inappropriate acts
Children, Ages 11 and 12	
☐ Continuation of masturbation ☐ Focus on establishing relationships with peers ☐ Sexual behavior with peers, e.g., kissing and fondling ☐ Primarily heterosexual activity but not exclusively ☐ Interest in others' bodies, particularly the opposite sex, that may take the form of looking at photos or other published material	☐ Sexual play with younger children ☐ Any sexual activity between children of any age that involves coercion, bribery, aggression, secrecy, or a substantial peer or age difference
Adolescents, Ages 13–17	
☐ Masturbation in private ☐ Mutual kissing ☐ Sexual arousal ☐ Sexual attraction to others ☐ Consensual sexual activity amongst peers ☐ Behavior that contributes to positive relationships	☐ Masturbation causing physical harm or distress to self and others ☐ Public masturbation ☐ Unwanted kissing ☐ Voyeurism, stalking, sadism (gaining sexual pleasure from others' suffering) ☐ Non-consensual groping or touching of others' genitals ☐ Coercive sexual intercourse/sexual assault ☐ Coercive oral sex ☐ Behavior that isolates the young person who displays the sexually abusive behavior and is destructive of his/her relationships with peers and family
<i>Adapted from material presented in Araji (2004); cited in Boyd (2006) and Kambouropoulos, et al. (2005).</i>	

¹ Retrieved on February 6, 2017, from <http://kids.delaware.gov/policies/dfs/sdms-for-cps-policy-and-procedures-manual.pdf>

Ages of Consent

1. Children under the age of 12 cannot consent to a sexual act under any circumstances. [11 Del. C. § 761(k)]
2. Children ages 12 to 15 are able to consent to a sexual act as long as there is not a 4 year age difference. [11 Del. C. §761(k)]
3. Children ages 16 & 17 are able to consent to a sexual act as long as the other party is not over 30 years of age. [11 Del. C. §770(a)(2)]
4. Person in a position of trust cannot engage in sexual intercourse with any child. [11 Del. C. §§ 778 and 778A]