

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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Touching/masturbating genitals in public/private <input type="checkbox"/> Viewing/touching peer or new sibling genitals <input type="checkbox"/> Showing genitals to peers <input type="checkbox"/> Standing/sitting too close <input type="checkbox"/> Tries to view peer/adult nudity <input type="checkbox"/> Behaviors are transient, few, and distractible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Rubbing body against others <input type="checkbox"/> Trying to insert tongue in mouth while kissing <input type="checkbox"/> Touching peer/adult genitals <input type="checkbox"/> Crude mimic of movements associated with sexual acts <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual behaviors that are occasionally, but persistently, disruptive to others <input type="checkbox"/> Behaviors are transient and moderately responsive to distraction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Asking peer/adult to engage in specific sexual act(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Inserting objects into genitals <input type="checkbox"/> Explicit imitation of intercourse <input type="checkbox"/> Touching animal genitals <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual behaviors that are frequently disruptive to others <input type="checkbox"/> Behaviors are persistent and resistant to parental distraction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Any sexual behaviors involving children who are four or more years apart <input type="checkbox"/> A variety of sexual behaviors displayed on a daily basis <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual behavior that results in emotional distress or physical pain <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual behaviors associated with other physically aggressive behavior <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual behaviors that involve coercion <input type="checkbox"/> 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	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Fondle and touch own genitals; masturbate <input type="checkbox"/> Become more secretive about self-touching <input type="checkbox"/> Interest in others' bodies becomes more game playing than exploratory curiosity (e.g., "I'll show you mine if you show me yours") <input type="checkbox"/> Boys may begin comparing size of penis <input type="checkbox"/> May develop extreme interest in sex, sex words, and dirty jokes <input type="checkbox"/> Begin to seek information or pictures that explain bodily functions <input type="checkbox"/> Touching may involve stroking or rubbing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual penetration <input type="checkbox"/> Genital kissing <input type="checkbox"/> Oral copulation (intercourse) <input type="checkbox"/> Simulated intercourse <input type="checkbox"/> Behavior involves coercion, threats, secrecy, violence, aggression, or developmentally inappropriate acts
Children, Ages 11 and 12	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation of masturbation <input type="checkbox"/> Focus on establishing relationships with peers <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual behavior with peers, e.g., kissing and fondling <input type="checkbox"/> Primarily heterosexual activity but not exclusively <input type="checkbox"/> Interest in others' bodies, particularly the opposite sex, that may take the form of looking at photos or other published material 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual play with younger children <input type="checkbox"/> 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	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Masturbation in private <input type="checkbox"/> Mutual kissing <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual arousal <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual attraction to others <input type="checkbox"/> Consensual sexual activity amongst peers <input type="checkbox"/> Behavior that contributes to positive relationships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Masturbation causing physical harm or distress to self and others <input type="checkbox"/> Public masturbation <input type="checkbox"/> Unwanted kissing <input type="checkbox"/> Voyeurism, stalking, sadism (gaining sexual pleasure from others' suffering) <input type="checkbox"/> Non-consensual groping or touching of others' genitals <input type="checkbox"/> Coercive sexual intercourse/sexual assault <input type="checkbox"/> Coercive oral sex <input type="checkbox"/> Behavior that isolates the young person who displays the sexually abusive behavior and is destructive of his/her relationships with peers and family
<p><i>Adapted from material presented in Araji (2004); cited in Boyd (2006) and Kambouropoulos, et al. (2005).</i></p>	

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]