Childhood Sexuality

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Continuum of Sexual Behaviors

Healthy Expectable Sexual Behaviors
Sexually Reactive Behaviors
Problematic and Extensive Mutual Sexual Behaviors
Abusive Sexual Behaviors

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Healthy - Expectable Sexual Behaviors  
No Intervention Required

**Prepubescent**
- Genital or reproduction conversations with peers or similar age siblings
- Show me yours/I’ll show you mine with peers
- Playing “doctor”
- Occasional masturbation without penetration

**Post pubescent**
- Sexually explicit conversations with peers
- Obscenities and jokes within cultural norm
- Sexual innuendo, flirting and courtship
- Solitary masturbation
- Foreplay (making out, fondling)
- Mutual masturbation

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Sexually Reactive Behaviors  
Require Adult Response

**Prepubescent**
- Preoccupation with sexual themes (especially sexual aggressive)
- Attempting to expose others genitals (i.e. pulling other’s skirt up or pants down)
- Precocious sexual knowledge
- Preoccupation with masturbation
- Mutual masturbation/group masturbation
- Simulating foreplay with dolls or peers with clothing on

**Post pubescent**
- Sexual preoccupation/anxiety that interferes with daily functioning
- Pornographic interest
- Sexually aggressive themes/obscenities
- Embarrassment of others with sexual themes
- Violation of others’ body space

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Problematic Sexual Behaviors
Require Adult Correction

Prepubescent
- Sexually explicit conversations with significant age difference
- Touching genitals of others
- Degradation/humiliation of self or others with sexual themes
- Inducing fear/threats of force
- Sexually explicit proposals/threats including written notes
- Compulsive masturbation/task interruption to masturbate
- Masturbation which includes vaginal or anal penetration

Post pubescent
- Compulsive masturbation (especially chronic or public)
- Degradation/humiliation of self or others with sexual themes
- Chronic preoccupation with sexually aggressive pornography
- Sexually explicit conversation with significantly younger children
- Touching genitals without permission (i.e. grabbing, goosing)
- Sexually explicit threats (verbal or written)

Abusive Sexual Behaviors
Require Intensive Intervention

Prepubescent
- Oral, vaginal, anal penetration of dolls, children, animals
- Forced exposure of others’ genitals
- Simulating intercourse with peers with clothing off
- Any genital injury or bleeding not explained by accidental cause

Post pubescent—Illegal Behaviors
- Obscene phone calls, voyeurism, exhibitionism, sexual harassment
- Sexual contact with significant age difference (child sexual abuse)
- Forced sexual contact (sexual assault)
- Forced penetration (rape)
- Sexual contact with animals (bestiality)
- Genital injury to others

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Continuum of Sexual Behaviors

- Healthy Expectable Sexual Behaviors
- Sexually Reactive Behaviors
- Problematic and Extensive Mutual Sexual Behaviors
- Abusive Sexual Behaviors

- After discovered
- Coercion
- Motivation
- Planning
- Affect
- Frequency
- With whom