

HEALTHY /EXPECTED SEXUAL DEVELOPMENT:

The following guidelines (Hanks, 2001; Cavanagh Johnson, 2002; Carson, 2002) may be helpful in setting a sexual behaviour within the context of expected sexual development.

Birth to 2 years:		
Sexual Development	Sexual Behaviour	Sexual Knowledge
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender established 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erect penis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erect penis/Vaginal lubrication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physiology for arousal is present 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition/experience of pleasurable feelings when touching genitals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spontaneous penile erection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Touches self; sometimes looks at and touches others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited language for body parts
3 - 6 years:		
Sexual Development	Sexual Behaviour	Sexual Knowledge
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children grow; boys' testicles descend. • Peer exploration. • Erections and lubrication for boys and girls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Touch their own and others (peers) genitals. • Look and play doctor, nurses, mum/dad games with peers. • Masturbates (stimulates) self. • Experience pleasurable feelings • Interest in own faeces, and watches others use the toilet and bathroom. • Show genitals to others. • Disinhibited and can be at an exhibitionist stage. • Pretend to have babies in their tummies. • Rubs genitals, masturbates, when uncomfortable, unhappy, tense, upset, excited or afraid. • Practices kissing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language develops. • Become inquisitive and verbal about some adult sexual functions without understanding. • Limited knowledge about where babies come from. • Recognise gender differences as they get older. • Child asks about genitals, intercourse. • Can name body parts more accurately. • Use of slang words for toilet/bathroom functions, genitals and sex. • Little understanding of sex.

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7 - 10 years:		
Sexual Development	Sexual Behaviour	Sexual Knowledge
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children of 8 or 9 may experience pubertal changes. • Menstruation, wet dreams, develops sexual fantasies. • Cannot give informed consent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masturbation in private. • Shows guilt/embarrassment about sexual activities. • Simulates intercourse, kissing, petting with peers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language for body parts. • Increasing knowledge of sexual behaviour and language (including slang terms). • Confused about sexual behaviour and causal effects. • Unclear about intercourse and pregnancy
10 -12 years:		
Sexual Development	Sexual Behaviour	Sexual Knowledge
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May enter puberty. Hormonal changes lead to a range of physical and emotional sensations. • Menstruation, wet dreams, develops sexual fantasies. • Cannot give informed consent. • Some children are capable of childbirth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masturbation in private. • Shows guilt and embarrassment re: sexual activities • May have intercourse without knowing the consequences. Not able to give true and informed consent). • Experimenting with sexual behaviours with same and opposite sex. • Sharing information and comparing bodies with peers. • Kissing and petting with peers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Likely to have received formal sex education. • Increasing understanding of intercourse and consequences of sexual behaviours. • Language for body parts, including formal words and slang terms
Normal Sexual Behaviour in Adolescents includes:		
Sexual Development	Sexual Behaviour	Sexual Knowledge
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embracing and kissing • Close bodily contact • Consenting Mutual fondling and masturbation • Simulated intercourse • Consenting Intercourse • Explicit jokes/sexual discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masturbation • Highly eroticised fantasies • Wet dreams • Interest in erotic materials and use in masturbation 	