

Ages 5-9

Children this age are trying to understand their bodies, their abilities, and what life is about.

Curiosity about sex is natural and is engaged in with liveliness and good humor:

→ *These may be considered normal sexual behaviors:*

1. Draws human figures of both sexes
2. Looks at nude pictures or nude bodies
3. Talks about sex with friends
4. Touches own genitals when tense, excited, afraid, or going to sleep
5. Plays games related to sex and sexuality with same age children, spontaneously
6. Kisses familiar adults and children. Allows familiar adults and children to kiss them
7. May simulate roles of mommy and daddy "playing house"

→ *If these sexual behaviors continue after telling the child to stop, they may be cause for concern:*

1. Draws genitals on human figures
2. Touches/stares at genitals of adults or children
3. Knows more about sex than others of the same age
4. Continues to touch genitals in public after being told "no"
5. Wants to play games related to sex and sexuality with much younger children
6. French kissing
7. Imitates sexual activity with dolls or toys

→ *You may wish to consult a professional if you observe these behaviors:*

1. Genitals stand out as most prominent feature in drawings
2. Sneakily or forcibly touches others' genitals or wants to masturbate to nude pictures
3. Asks others to engage in sexual acts with them
4. Touches genitals to the exclusion of other normal activities
5. Uses force or coercion to engage other children in sexual activity which may range from "humping" to sexual intercourse
6. Puts mouth on others' genitals
7. Focuses on sexual play to the exclusion of other activities