



Range of Sexual Behavior in Children

(Adapted from Ryan G., Blum, J.: Understanding and Responding to the Sexual Behavior of Children- A Primary Perpetration Prevention Project, Trainer's Manual.)



Green Light Behaviors:

Green light behaviors are normal, developmentally appropriate sexual behaviors. These behaviors have consent, equal power, are spontaneous, curious, light-hearted, mutual, private and can be easily redirected.

- Genital or reproduction conversations with **similar-age peers or siblings**
- “Show me yours/I’ll show you mine” with **similar-age peers**
- Occasional self-stimulation without penetration
- Imitating seduction (i.e. kissing, flirting)
- Dirty words or jokes with cultural or peer group

Yellow Light Behaviors:

Yellow light behaviors are outside the norm that require further observation and assess appropriate action. These behaviors are outside of normal behaviors in regards to persistence, frequency, duration and inequality in age or developmental abilities.

- Preoccupation with sexual themes
- Attempting to expose others’ genitals
 - (Ex. Pulling other’s skirts up or pants down)
- Touching genitals of others
- Sexually explicit conversation with peers
- Sexual innuendo/teasing/embarrassment of others
- Knowledge of sexual behaviors beyond their age
- Single occurrences of peeping/exposing/obscenities/pornographic interests
- Preoccupation with masturbation
- Simulating foreplay with dolls or peers with clothing on
 - (Ex. French-kissing, humping)

Red Light Behaviors to Consider Seeking Professional Assistance:

Red light behaviors are harmful or problematic sexual behaviors that indicate a need to seek professional assistance. These behaviors are actions that are excessive, secretive, compulsive, coercive, degrading or threatening/fear inducing. Consider seeking professional assistance if there is:

- Significant age, developmental and/or power difference between the children involved
- Sexually explicit:
 - Conversation with significant age difference

- Proposals/threats
- Forced exposure of others' genitals
- Repeated or chronic peeping/exposing/obscenities/pornographic interest
- Masturbation:
 - Compulsive
 - Interrupts tasks
 - Includes penetration
- Engaging dolls, peers or animals with penetrating intercourse

Red Light Behaviors that need professional assistance IMMEDIATELY

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