

Behaviors Related to Sex and Sexuality in Children Fifth Grade through Eighth Grade

Normal and Healthy

1. Asks about sexual materials and information
2. Curiosity about relationships and sexual behavior
3. Will want clarification on the meaning of sexual words, acts, and personal values particularly with peers
4. Asks about decision making
5. Asks about consequences of sexual behavior
6. Sexual experimentation between adolescents of the same age and gender is common.
7. Self-stimulation in private is expected to continue.
8. Is keenly interested in learning about body changes.
9. Enjoys bathroom humor.

Of Concern

1. Seems distracted or distant at odd times
2. Has a sudden change in eating habits
 - Refuses to eat
 - Loses or drastically increases appetite
 - Has trouble swallowing.
3. Sudden mood swings: rage, fear, insecurity or withdrawal
4. Leaves "clues" that seem likely to provoke a discussion about sexual issues
5. Writes, draws, plays or dreams of sexual or frightening images
6. Develops new or unusual fear of certain people or places
7. Refuses to talk about a secret shared with an adult or older child
8. Talks about a new older friend
9. Suddenly has money, toys or other gifts without reason
10. Exhibits adult-like sexual behaviors, language and knowledge
11. Thinks of self or body as repulsive, dirty or bad
12. Has nightmares or other sleep problems without an explanation

Behaviors Related to Sex and Sexuality in Children Ninth Grade through Twelfth Grade

Normal and Healthy

1. Sexual experimentation between adolescents of the same age and gender is common.
2. Self- stimulation in private is expected to continue.
3. Becomes preoccupied with the opposite sex.
4. May be influenced by peers to try risky behaviors (alcohol, tobacco, sex).
5. Is concerned about physical and sexual attractiveness.

Of Concern

1. Self-injury (cutting, burning)
2. Inadequate personal hygiene
3. Drug and alcohol abuse
4. Sexual promiscuity
5. Running away from home
6. Depression, anxiety
7. Suicide attempts
8. Fear of intimacy or closeness
9. Compulsive eating or dieting
10. Masturbation in a public Place
11. Sexual Interest directed toward much younger children