

Common Sexual Behaviors & Body Safety

Ages
4-6

Common Behaviors

- Purposefully touching private parts (masturbation), occasionally in the presence of others
- Attempting to see other people when they are naked or undressing
- Mimicking dating behavior (such as kissing, or holding hands)
- Exploring private parts with children their own age (such as “playing doctor,” “I’ll show you mine if you show me yours,” etc.)
- Talking about private parts and using “naughty” words, even when they don’t understand the meaning

Basic Information to Talk About

- Boys’ and girls’ bodies change when they get older
- Simple explanations of how babies grow in their mothers’ wombs and about the birth process.
- Rules about personal boundaries (such as, keeping private parts covered and not touching other children’s private parts)
- Simple answers to all questions about the body and bodily functions
- Touching your own private parts can feel nice, but should be done in private

Safety Information to Talk About

- Sexual abuse is when someone touches your private parts or asks you to touch their private parts
- It is sexual abuse even if it is done by someone you know
- Sexual abuse is NEVER the child’s fault
- If a stranger tries to get you to go with him or her, run and tell a parent, teacher, neighbor, police officer, or other trusted adult
- Who to tell if someone does a “not okay” thing to you, or asks you to do a “not okay” thing to them



care
center

CHILD ABUSE RESPONSE & EVALUATION

Questions?

Contact your CARE Center Family Advocate