

Common Sexual Behaviors & Body Safety

Ages
7-12

Common Behaviors

- Purposefully touching private parts (masturbation), usually in private
- Playing games with children their own age that involve sexual behavior (such as “truth or dare,” “playing family,” or “boyfriend/girlfriend”)
- Attempting to see other people naked or undressing
- Looking at pictures of naked or partially naked people
- Viewing/listening to sexual content in media (television, movies, games, the Internet, music, etc.)
- Wanting more privacy (for example, not wanting to undress in front of other people) and being reluctant to talk to adults about sexual issues
- Beginnings of sexual attraction to/interest in peers

Basic Information to Talk About

- What to expect and how to cope with the changes of puberty (including menstruation and wet dreams)
- Risks of sexual activity (pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases)
- Masturbation is common and not associated with long term problems but should be done in private
- Basics of reproduction, pregnancy, and childbirth
- Basics of contraception

Safety Information to Talk About

- Sexual abuse may or may not involve touch
- Maintaining safety and personal boundaries when chatting with or meeting people online
- How to recognize and avoid risky social situations
- Dating rules



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CHILD ABUSE RESPONSE & EVALUATION

Questions?

Contact your CARE Center Family Advocate