

Common Sexual Behaviors & Body Safety

Ages
0-4

Common Behaviors

- Exploring and touching private parts, in public and in private
- Rubbing private parts (with hand or against objects)
- Showing private parts to others
- Trying to touch mother's or other women's breasts
- Removing clothes and wanting to be naked
- Attempting to see other people when they are naked or undressing
- Asking questions about their own—and others'—bodies and bodily functions
- Talking to children their age about bodily functions such as "poop" and "pee"

Basic Information to Talk About

- Accurate names for body parts of boys and girls
- Boys and girls are different
- Babies come from mommies
- Rules about personal boundaries (for example, keeping private parts covered, not touching other children's private parts)
- Give simple answers to all questions about the body and bodily functions

Safety Information to Talk About

- The difference between "okay" touches (comforting, pleasant, and welcome) and "not okay" touches (intrusive, uncomfortable, unwanted, or painful)
- Your body belongs to you!
- Everyone has the right to say "no" to being touched, even by grownups
- No one, child or adult, has the right to touch your private parts
- It's okay to say "no" when grownups ask you to do things that are wrong, such as touching private parts or keeping secrets from mommy or daddy
- There's a difference between a "surprise" (something that will be revealed sometime soon, like a present) and a "secret" (something you're not supposed to tell). Stress that it's never okay to keep secrets from mommy and daddy.
- Who to tell if someone does a "not okay" things 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