

Sexual behaviours of children aged 5 - 7 years: Early school years

Very concerning sexual behaviours

- Touching or rubbing themselves persistently in private or public to the exclusion of normal childhood activities.
- Rubbing their genitals on other people.
- Forcing other children to play sexual games.
- Sexual knowledge too advanced for their age.
- Talking about sex and sexual acts habitually.

Concerning sexual behaviours

- Continually rubbing/touching their own genitals in public.
- Persistent use of dirty words.
- Wanting to play sex games with much older or younger children.
- Continually wanting to touch the private parts of other children.
- Chronic peeping behaviour.

Age appropriate sexual behaviours

- Self-touching including masturbating.
- 'Show me yours/I'll show you mine' with same age children.
- Hearing and telling age appropriate 'dirty' jokes.
- Playing mummies and daddies.
- Kissing, holding hands.
- Mimicking or practicing observed behaviours such as pinching a bottom.
- Increased curiosity in adult sexual behaviour ('where do babies come from?' etc).

* Some age appropriate behaviours may still need addressing and discouraging.