

Sexual behaviours of children aged 8 - 12 years: Pre-adolescence

Very concerning sexual behaviours

- Compulsive masturbation, including task interruption to masturbate.
- Repeated or chronic peeping, exposing or using obscenities.
- Chronic use of pornography, including illegal pornography
- Degradation/humiliation of themselves or others using sexual themes.
- Touching the genitals of others without permission.
- Sexually explicit threats - written or verbal.
- Forced exposure of others' genitals.
- Simulating intercourse with peers with clothes off.
- Penetration of dolls, children or animals.

Concerning sexual behaviours

- Attempting to expose others' genitals.
- Sexual knowledge too advanced for their age once context is considered.
- Pre-occupation with masturbation.
- Mutual masturbation/group masturbation.
- Single occurrence of peeping, exposing, obscenities, pornographic interest (sources include the internet, pay TV, videos, DVDs and magazines).
- Simulating foreplay or intercourse with peers with their clothes on.

Age appropriate sexual behaviours

- Occasional masturbation.
- 'Show me yours/I'll show you mine' with peers.
- Kissing and flirting.
- Genital or reproduction conversations with peers.
- 'Dirty' words or jokes with their peer group.

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