

TYPICAL

Young child:

- Asks about private parts, how babies are made
- Touches/rubs own genitals when going to sleep, nervous, excited
- Compares genitals with same age peers

Older child:

- Tells/texts dirty jokes
- Has interest in sexual media
- Masturbates in private

OF CONCERN

- Touches/rubs private parts of familiar children even after told not to
- Continuously caught peeking at others in bathroom
- Humps other children with clothes on
- Wants younger kids to watch pornography with them
- Puts object in genitals/rectum frequently or in another child
- “Innocently” touches private parts of others when roughhousing

SEEK HELP

- Involves coercion, force or aggression of any kind
- Behavior occurs frequently
- Takes place between children of widely differing ages or abilities
- Are initiated with strong, upset feelings, such as anger or anxiety
- Causes harm or potential harm (physical or emotional) to any child
- Behavior continues despite all attempts to change it or stop it

*Adapted from: Understanding Children’s Sexual Behavior by Toni Cavanagh Johnson, PhD 2015

Ask yourself these questions...

- How often is the sexual behavior occurring?
- Is there a big difference in age, size or intelligence between the children?
- Did the behavior start with or result in strong feelings such as anger or anxiety?
- Did it cause harm or potential harm (physical or emotional) to any child?
- Did the behavior continue despite all attempts to change/stop it?
- Did the behavior involve coercion, force or aggression of any kind?

If yes, don’t panic. You are not alone.

- Stay calm and matter-of-fact when speaking to your child
- State what you see
- Give your rules
- Give your rules about the behavior
- Offer to answer questions

Find more information & resources at:
www.NCSBY.org

For support, call: Family Counseling Services (607) 753-0234 or Cortland Co. Child Advocacy Center (607) 753-5087

For immediate assistance: Contact your local police agency or Child Protective Services

Mandated Reporter Hotline (800) 635-1522 or Public Hotline (800) 342-3720