

Infancy and Early Childhood – Approximately Birth to 3 years

Developmentally Appropriate	Developmentally Inappropriate	Concerning	Very Concerning	Serious/ Extreme
<p>From birth, children will explore all their body parts equally, including the genitals; may include touching, holding, poking with fingers, pulling and unconscious masturbation.</p> <p>Play-based behaviour with others can include various games that involve children being naked, playing gender-based roles and make-believe games such as mums and dads, mums and mums, dads and dads; doctors and nurses; families; 'I'll show you mine if you show me yours', and so on.</p> <p>Children may also want to touch and/or look at the genitals of others around them in a natural curiosity as they work out how their bodies are the same and different. This is more common around bath and dressing time; they often enjoy being nude.</p> <p>Language expression and jokes can include conversations about bottoms, breasts, vaginas, penises, and general bodily functions.</p>	<p>Regular masturbation that can be redirected with little emotional impact on or distress for the child.</p> <p>Exposing themselves to others or seeking to look at other children's genitals outside play-based behaviour. Behaviour will usually dissipate with reinforcement of boundaries and redirection.</p> <p>Seeking opportunities to follow adults and other children into private areas such as toilets, bathrooms and bedrooms when changing in order to see or touch their genitals, bottom or breasts.</p> <p>Touching the genitals of animals.</p>	<p>Masturbation that occurs often, even after redirection.</p> <p>Play-based themes that are persistently sexual in nature, and/or demonstration through language or play of adult sexual themes.</p> <p>Seeking opportunities to watch others when undressed, in bathrooms or toilets.</p> <p>Invading other children or adults' private space to lift/move their clothing to see and/or touch their private parts or see their genitals, bottom or breasts.</p>	<p>Masturbation that is compulsive and occurs often. A preference for this activity over others. Masturbation that is rough or self-injurious.</p> <p>Play-based themes that are persistently sexual in nature even after redirection. Themes are simulated or demonstrated through play with other children, for example, simulating sex with or without clothes.</p> <p>Persistent touching of others' genitals and private parts and/or seeking opportunities to do so even after redirection.</p> <p>Use of sexually aggressive and/or explicit language.</p>	<p>Using force to engage other children in sexual activity regardless of the context of play (i.e. normal fantasy play).</p> <p>Use of explicit sexual acts within play on other children, such as oral sex, masturbation and penetration (penetration may be with finger/objects).</p>