

Lower High School (Early Adolescence) 12–14 years

Developmentally Appropriate	Developmentally Inappropriate	Concerning	Very Concerning	Serious/ Extreme
<p>Marked by increased sexual curiosity to explore their own and others sexual motivations, sexual and gender identity, orientation and behaviour. Young people are experimenting with others and themselves. Age of consent, and potential criminal consequences of their actions becomes a complicating factor at this age for some children and young people.</p> <p>As in other elements of their life, they seek physical privacy and may begin to masturbate for purposeful sexual pleasure.</p> <p>They often continue to engage in the online world and may seek to explore sexual interest via accessing a variety of pornographic content. Some may also use this content during masturbation for sexual arousal.</p> <p>They will begin to explore intimate relationships with same-age peers of either sex and may have brief or ongoing sexual relationships that routinely include hugging, kissing, and fondling.</p> <p>They will continue to use sexually explicit language and exhibitionism with peers. This may extend to sexting and other forms of communication of a sexual nature.</p> <p>Young people will also continue taking and sharing photos of themselves in various poses (usually clothed). They may begin to push the boundaries with peers and the content shared.</p>	<p>Although precarious depending on the actual age of both young people involved, sexual relationships may progress to include mutual masturbation and oral sex.</p> <p>Engaging in intimate relationships with peers of up to a two-year age gap as their social networks expand.</p> <p>Masturbation that is more frequent or occurs in inappropriate contexts or not in private.</p> <p>Disregard for the privacy of self and others.</p> <p>Regular exploration of pornographic material or exploration of material that is explicit.</p> <p>Preoccupation with sexually explicit language or use of sexual language in inappropriate contexts. Sexting that is prolific or non-reciprocal with peers.</p> <p>Taking and sharing photos of themselves in various poses unclothed and/or exposing genitals. Given this can be deemed a criminal offence, this behaviour should be redirected.</p> <p>Persuading others to engage in sexting, share photos of themselves in various poses (usually clothed).</p>	<p>Sexual behaviours with others that includes vaginal or anal sex (with protection).</p> <p>Intimate relationships with individuals more than a two-year age gap.</p> <p>Compulsive masturbation that interferes with other activities, and/or is aggressive, and/or self-injurious. Or where the young person feels compelled to do this in public.</p> <p>Use of sexually explicit language to intimidate others regardless of the type of communication.</p> <p>Preoccupation with watching pornographic material that interferes with other social experiences or includes sexually explicit content including violence and degradation.</p> <p>Invading others' privacy as a form of voyeurism.</p> <p>Taking and sharing photos of themselves in various poses (which may be considered sexually explicit), unclothed, exposing genitals, which persists after provision of information that this is not appropriate and may be deemed a criminal offence.</p> <p>Coercing or bribing others to engage in sexting or sharing photos of themselves in various poses (usually clothed).</p>	<p>Engaging in sexual behaviour with others that includes group sex or having multiple sexual partners.</p> <p>Using coercion or bribery to engage others in sexual behaviours of any level.</p> <p>Intimate relationships with individuals who are significantly different in age, and/or where there is a significant power or developmental difference.</p> <p>Regularly masturbating to sexually explicit and deviant pornographic material (e.g., containing animals, violence, children, and so on).</p> <p>Taking and/or sharing sexually explicit photos of others without their consent.</p>	<p>Preoccupation with masturbating to sexually explicit and deviant pornographic material (e.g., containing animals, violence, children, and so on).</p> <p>Frequently lying about their age for the purpose of engaging significantly older individuals in sexual activity.</p> <p>Forcing other children to engage in sexual behaviour; may include force and include oral sex and penetration with objects.</p> <p>Having unprotected vaginal or anal sex or engaging in sexual behaviour while intoxicated.</p> <p>Exchanging sexual behaviour/ acts for tangible or non-tangible things (e.g., drugs, food, alcohol, money, social inclusion, and so on).</p> <p>Taking and sharing sexually explicit photos of others without permission.</p>