

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. 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. 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. 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. 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. Seeking opportunities to follow adults and other children into private areas such as toilets, bathrooms and bedrooms when changing to see or touch their genitals, bottom, or breasts. Touching the genitals of animals.</p>	<p>Masturbation that occurs often, even after redirection. Play-based themes that are persistently sexual in nature, and/or demonstration through language or play of adult sexual themes. Seeking opportunities to watch others when undressed, in bathrooms or toilets. 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. 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. Persistent touching of others’ genitals and private parts and/or seeking opportunities to do so even after redirection. 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). Use of explicit sexual acts within play on other children, such as oral sex, masturbation, and penetration (penetration may be with finger/objects).</p>