

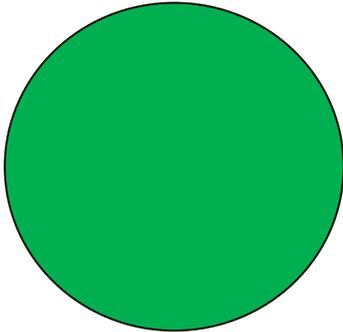


Denver Children's
Advocacy Center

Need help or have questions?
Call 303.825.3850

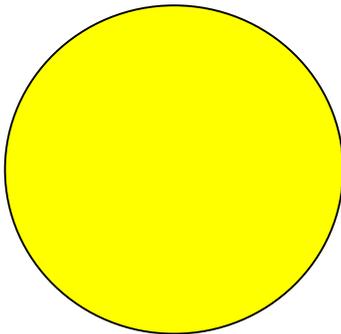
Child Sexual Development

What's okay and what's not??



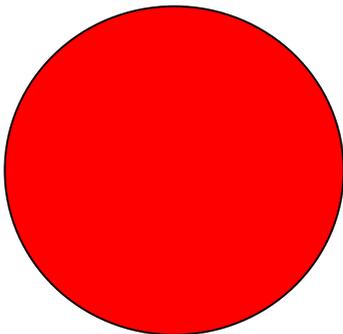
Green Light Behaviors—Normal for Children 5-9 years

- Uses “dirty” words for bathroom functions, genitals, and sex
- Plays “doctor”
- Shows others his/her genitals in a private location
- Plays house, may simulate all roles of Mommy and Daddy
- Thinks other gender children are “gross” or have “cooties”
- Likes to hear/tell “dirty” jokes
- Explores differences between adult males and females, boys and girls
- Kisses and allows kisses from familiar adults and children



Yellow Light Behaviors—Need adult action to correct and guide

- Uses “dirty” words with adults after parent consistently says “no”
- Frequently plays “doctor” and gets caught after being told “no”
- Shows genitals in public after being “no” and receiving discipline
- Repeatedly imitates sexual behavior with dolls/stuffed toy
- Uses “dirty” language after other children complain
- Repeatedly caught telling “dirty” jokes
- Confused about male/female differences after all questions answered
- French kissing, fearful of hugs and kisses by adults, anxious when sees public displays of affection



Red Light Behaviors—Need to STOP and might need outside help

- Continues use of “dirty” words even after exclusion from school and activities
- Forces child to take clothes off and play doctor
- Shows genitals at school and/or other places to express anger
- Forcing sexual contact on a child or adult
- Hurts other gender children
- Continues getting caught telling “dirty” jokes after exclusion from school and activities
- Plays male/female role in a sad, angry or aggressive manner
- Talks/acts in a sexualized manner with unknown adults. Physical contact with any adult causes agitation, fear or anxiety

Possible Signs of Abuse: Any sudden change in how your child acts or his/her personality (a child who loves to play with friends suddenly only wants to be alone)

- **Knowing too much about sex for his/her age**
- **Medical problems**
- **Not eating or eating too much**
- **Nightmares**
- **Suddenly not trusting someone they used to like**