



## CHILD SEXUAL DEVELOPMENT – WHAT IS OKAY, WHAT IS 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 – Require 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 told “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 require 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



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### 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