

from the desk of  
**Kerri Isham**



# CHILDREN'S SEXUAL BEHAVIOURS CHART

## ***Dear Parents, Caregivers, and Educators,***

This is one of the best tools I have found since starting my sexual health education business in 2009. The full chart, [Children's Sexual Behaviours: A Parent's Guide](#), was created by the Provincial Child Sexual Abuse Advisory Committee in 2013 in Prince Edward Island (PEI).

If you find yourself wondering about the behaviours exhibited by your child or a child you're working with, you can use this chart to aid you in further understanding and in taking next steps.

## ***How to Use this Chart:***

- 1. First, print out a copy** of the chart.
- 2. Use a marker or highlighter to identify the behaviour(s)** that the child is exhibiting.
- 3. Review the results/what you see.** More often than not, you'll find that the behaviour falls into the "normal" range, which should provide some relief or clarity that things are okay.
- 4. If you need further support or information,** you can contact me [here](#) or reach out to a health professional that you trust.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kerri Isham".

**Kerri Isham**  
Certified Sexual Health Educator

## Preschool Children up to age 5

NATURAL + HEALTHY	OF CONCERN	SEEK PROFESSIONAL HELP
Touches/rubs own genitals when diapers are being changed, when going to sleep, when tense, excited or afraid or because it feels good.	Continues to touch/rub genitals in public after being told “no” consistently.	Touches/rubs self to the exclusion of normal childhood activities. Hurts own genitals by touching/ rubbing.
Explores differences between males and females, boys and girls.	Asks continuous questions about genital differences after all questions have been answered.	Plays male or female roles in an angry, sad or aggressive manner. Hates own/other sex.
Touches the “private parts” of familiar adults and children with hand or body.	Touches/rubs the “private parts” of familiar children or adults after they have been told consistently not to do so.	Sneakily touches/rubs the “private parts” of adults or children and, if questioned, deny it.
Takes advantage of opportunity to look at nude people.	Stares at nude people even after having seen many people nude.	Asks people to take off their clothes. Tries to forcibly undress people.
Asks about the genitals, breasts, intercourse, babies.	Keeps asking people even after parent has answered all questions at an age appropriate level.	Asks unfamiliar people after parent has answered all questions. Sexual knowledge too great for age.
Erections.	Very frequent erections.	Fearful of erections.
Likes to be nude. May show others his/her genitals.	Wants to be nude in public after the parent repeatedly and consistently says “no.”	Refuses to put on clothes. Secretly shows “private parts” in public after many scoldings.
Interested in watching people do bathroom functions.	Interest in watching bathroom functions does not wane after days/weeks.	Refuses to leave people alone in bathroom. Forces way into bathroom.
Interested in having/birthing a baby.	Boys’ interest does not wane after several days/weeks of play about babies.	Displays fear or anger about babies, birthing or intercourse.
Child stands/sits too close to familiar adults and children.	Child stands/sits too close to unfamiliar adults and children.	After consistent reminders by the adults, the child stands/ sits with his/her body touching familiar/unfamiliar adults, which makes the adults uncomfortable.

## Preschool Children up to age 5 (continued)

NATURAL + HEALTHY	OF CONCERN	SEEK PROFESSIONAL HELP
Uses dirty words for bathroom and sexual functions.	Continues to use “dirty” words at home after parent consistently says “no,” and parents do not swear.	Uses “dirty” words in public and at home after many strong scoldings and parents do not swear.
Interested in own feces.	Smears feces on wall or floor more than one time.	Repeatedly plays or smears feces after scolding. Angry when doing it.
Plays “doctor” inspecting others’ bodies, including “private parts.”	Frequently plays “doctor” and gets caught, after being told “no” consistently.	Forces child to take off clothes and play “doctor.”
Puts something in own genitals or rectum one time for curiosity.	Puts/tries to put something in genitals or rectum of self or other after being told “no.”	Any coercion, force, pain in putting/trying to put something genitals or rectum of self or other person.
Plays house, acts out roles of mommy and daddy.	Humping other children with clothes on after being told not to.	Simulated or real intercourse without clothes; oral genital contact.

## K - 4th grade children ages 5-10

NATURAL + HEALTHY	OF CONCERN	SEEK PROFESSIONAL HELP
Asks about genitals, breast, intercourse, babies.	Shows fear or anxiety about sexual topics.	Asks endless questions about sex after curiosity satisfied. Sexual knowledge/vocabulary/ thoughts too advanced for age.
Interested in watching/ peeking at people doing bathroom functions.	Keeps getting caught watching/peeking at others doing bathroom functions.	Refuses to leave people alone in bathroom.
Uses “dirty” words for bathroom functions, genitals, and sexual behaviour.	Uses “dirty” words with adults after parents consistently say “no” and punishes the child.	Continues use of “dirty” language even after exclusion from school and favorite activities and parents/relatives do not use these words.

## K - 4th grade children ages 5-10 (continued)

NATURAL + HEALTHY	OF CONCERN	SEEK PROFESSIONAL HELP
Plays “doctor”. The child inspects another child’s body, including “private parts.”	Stares/sneaks to stare at nude people after punishment and having seen many people nude.	Asks others to take off their clothes. Tries to forcibly undress children or adults.
Boys and girls are interested in having/birthing a baby.	Boy keeps making believe he is having a baby after month/s.	Child displays fear or anger about babies or intercourse.
Touches/rubs own genitals when going to sleep, when tense, excited, afraid or because it feels good. Show others his/her genitals in private location.	Shows genitals in public. Continues to touch/rub genitals in public after being told “no” consistently. Rubs genitals on furniture or other objects after the parent says “no” and punishes the child.	Show genitals at school and/or other places to express anger or disdain for authority.
Plays house, may simulate all roles of mommy and daddy.	Repeatedly humping other children with clothes on. Repeatedly imitates sexual behaviour with dolls/stuffed toy.	Humping others while naked. Intercourse with another child. Forcing sexual contact on a child or adult.
Thinks other gender children are “gross” or have “cooties.” Chases them.	Continues to use “dirty” language after other children really complain.	Uses bad language against other child’s family. Makes sexual threats.
Talks about sex with friends. Talks about having a girl/boy friend.	Sex talk gets child in trouble. Romanticizes relationships. Sexualizes relationships.	Talks about sex and sexual acts habitually. Repeatedly in trouble with regard to sexual talk.
Wants privacy when in bathroom or changing clothes.	Becomes very upset when observed changing clothes, using toilet or bathing.	Aggressive or fearful in demand for privacy.
Likes to hear and tell “dirty” jokes, makes a few sexual sounds.	Keeps getting caught telling “dirty” jokes or making sexual sounds, e.g., signs, moans.	Still gets caught telling “dirty” jokes, or making sexual sounds, even after exclusion from school and fun activities.
Plays games with same-aged children related to sex and sexuality.	Wants to play games related to sex and sexuality with much younger, older or unknown children.	Child/Children force others to play sexual games that make them uncomfortable.

## K - 4th grade children ages 5-10 (continued)

NATURAL + HEALTHY	OF CONCERN	SEEK PROFESSIONAL HELP
Draws genitals on human figures for artistic expression or because figure is being portrayed in the nude.	Draws genitals on some nude figures but not others or on drawings of clothed people. Genitals disproportionate to size of body.	Genitals stand out as most prominent feature of drawing. Drawings of intercourse, group sex, sex with animals, sadism, masochism, etc.
Explores differences between adult males and females, boys and girls.	Confused about male/female differences after all questions have been answered.	Plays male or female roles in a sad, angry or aggressive manner exclusively.
Takes advantage of opportunity to look at nude people.	Stares/sneaks to stare at nude people after punishment and having seen many people nude.	Asks others to take off their clothes. Tries to forcibly undress children or adults.
Pretends to be opposite gender.	Talks very negatively about own gender.	Hates/fears being own gender. Hates own genitals.
Wants to compare genitals with peer-aged friends.	Wants to compare genitals with much older or much younger people.	Demands to see the genitals, breasts, or buttocks of others.
Looks at the genitals, buttocks, or breasts of others.	Keeps getting caught watching/peeking at others doing bathroom functions.	Refuses to leave people alone in bathroom.
Interest in touching genitals, breast, or buttocks of other same-age child or have child touch his/hers.	Makes others uncomfortable by requests to touch their genitals, breasts, or buttocks or have them touch his/her genitals, breast, or buttocks.	Coerces unwilling child to touch his or her genitals, breasts, or buttocks or allow touching of theirs. Forced or mutual oral, anal, or vaginal sex.
Kisses/hugs familiar adults and children. Allows kisses/hugs by familiar adults and children.	French kissing. Talks/acts in a sexualized manner with unknown children. Fearful of hugs and kisses by adults. Gets very anxious when sees displays of affection. Kisses/hugs unfamiliar adult or child.	Talks/acts in a highly sexualized manner with known or unknown adults/children, which makes them feel uncomfortable. Physical contact with any adult causes agitation, anger, fear or anxiety to the child or adult.
Looks at nude pictures on the Internet, videos, magazines, etc.	Continuous fascination with nude pictures that gets child in trouble.	Wants to masturbate to nude pictures or display them.

## K - 4th grade children ages 5-10 (continued)

NATURAL + HEALTHY	OF CONCERN	SEEK PROFESSIONAL HELP
Erections.	Continuous erections or fear of erections.	Painful erections or hurting oneself to stop erections.
Puts something in own genitals/rectum for the physical sensation, curiosity or exploration.	Puts something in genitals/rectum frequently or when it feels uncomfortable. Puts something in the genitals/rectum of other child.	Any coercion or force in putting/trying to put something in genitals/rectum of other child. Causes harm to own/others genitals/rectum.
Interest in breeding behaviour of animals.	Touching genitals of animals.	Sexual behaviours with animals.

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