

What to do now?

If you have identified some **AMBER** or **RED** behaviours, try not to panic. There are many reasons why a child may be showing these behaviours. The most important thing is to keep calm, and to talk to a trusted professional about your concerns., i.e your child's teacher.

They will be able to support you to respond appropriately to the behaviours, and work with you and your child to resolve any issues that may arise.



Please visit the websites below for further information on developmentally appropriate sexual behaviours and how to respond;

www.brook.org.uk

www.nspcc.org.uk

www.barnardos.org.uk

www.stopitnow.org.uk

If you are concerned about your child or someone else's behaviors, please contact;

Your School Nurse

The child's teacher

Your GP



Understanding Healthy Sexual Behaviours

A parents / carers guide to understanding healthy sexual language and behaviours for children

8 - 12 YEARS



Appropriate behaviours (green behaviours) for children aged 8 - 12 years reflect safe and healthy sexual development.

They are normally displayed between children or young people of similar age or developmental ability, reflective of natural curiosity, experimentation, consensual activities and positive choices.

Some GREEN behaviours are;

- Growing need for privacy
- Masturbation in private
- Curiosity about other children's genitals - looking at and touching
- Showing curiosity about private parts but having a respect for the privacy of others
- Hugging, kissing, flirting, touching with known peers
- Participating in a relationship with a peer of any gender
- Curiosity and seeking information about sexuality
- Using sexual language
- Communicating online with family and known peers

Amber behaviours have the potential to be outside of safe and healthy behaviour.

They may be: unusual for that particular child or young person, or of potential concern due to age, or developmental differences. They may also raise potential concern due to activity type, frequency, duration or context in which they occur.

Some AMBER behaviours are;

- Masturbation in preference to other activities
- Persistent explicit talk, artplay which is sexual
- Intentional viewing of other people's private body parts
- Simulation of sexual activities with clothes on
- Mutual /self-masturbation with known and unknown peers
- Hugging, kissing, flirting, touching with unknown peers
- Persistent expression of fear of sexually transmitted infection or pregnancy
- Recurrent urinary tract infections
- Communicating online with known people which may include giving out personally identifying details

Red behaviours are outside of safe and healthy behaviour

Red behaviours may involve excessive, secretive, compulsive, coercive, degrading or threatening actions, will involve significant age, developmental, or power differences. Frequency, duration and the context of the behaviour also needs to be considered.

Some RED behaviours are;

- Compulsive masturbation
- Persistent bullying involving sexual aggression
- Disclosure of sexual abuse
- Touching another person's genitals without permission
- Sexual activity with animals or toys
- Sexual activity in exchange for material items or privileges
- Indication of sexually transmitted infection or pregnancy
- Communicating online with unknown people which may include giving out personally identifying details
- Communicating online with known and unknown people to send or publish sexual images, videos or audio of self or another person