



children's  
ADVOCACY CENTER  
OF KENT COUNTY

## Normative vs. Non-normative Behaviors

Ages: 0-4 years old

### Green Light:

- "Natural and Expected"
- Touching private parts: in-home and in public
- Rubbing private parts: hands or objects
- Showing private parts
- Touching women's breasts
- Asking questions about bodies and bodily functions; talking about pee and poop
- Attempting to see people undressing or in the bathroom
- Removing clothes/comfortable being nude
- Wanting to touch or look at body parts of same-age children
- Make-believe games with family, parents, etc.
- Asking about where babies come from
- Saying "naughty" words

### Yellow Light:

"Concerning: Requires Further Evaluation"

- Masturbation over other activities
- Preoccupation with sexual behavior
- Persistently trying to watch others
- Following others into private spaces
- Pulling down other children's pants
- Touching other children's genitals
- Touching adults private parts persistently or invasively
- Touching own private parts obsessively
- Touching animal private parts after intervention

### Red Light:

"Requires Intervention"

- Any talk or activities that involve adult sexual activity
- Simulation of sexual touch or activity
- Touching other children's private parts
- Forcing, coercing other children or telling them to keep it a secret
- Self-injurious or compulsive masturbation; persistent talk/play with sexually explicit themes



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## Normative vs. Non-normative Behaviors

Ages: 5-9 years old

### Green Light:

- Increased sense of privacy
- Potty Language
- Masturbating: generally in private
- Curiosity about other's genitals, role-playing
- Questions about sexuality, relationships, reproduction
- Telling stories or asking questions
- Body touching and touching own genitals
- Viewing explicit content (knowing they shouldn't vs. sexually driven motivation)
- Modesty
- Beginning to use social media to talk to same-gender peers
- Gender segregated "cooties"
- Pretends to be the opposite sex

### Yellow Light:

"Concerning: Requires Further Evaluation"

- Masturbation over other activities
- Sexually explicit talk, play, or art
- Persistent nudity, touching private parts in public
- Persistently trying to watch others
- Following others into private spaces
- Pulling down other children's pants
- Persistently using sexual/flirting language that is too advanced
- Touching own, others, or animals private parts after redirection
- Using social media with unknown individuals

### Red Light:

"Requires Intervention"

- Self-injurious or compulsive masturbation
- Masturbating in front of others
- Plays with feces, urinates outside of the toilet
- Sexual talk, behavior, or interactions with younger children
- Simulation of sexual activity
- Sexual activity with animals
- Electronic transmission of sexual material
- Sexual notes, drawings, and text messages that involve any level of aggression



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## Normative vs. Non-normative Behaviors Ages: 10-13 years old

### Green Light:

- "Natural and Expected"
- Focus/need for privacy
- Masturbation in private
- Curiosity and information seeking
- Beginning of dating relationships
- Exhibitionism in presence of known same-age peers
- Electronic interactions with peers
- Some anxiety when witnessing adult affection
- Insertion of items into own genitals

### Yellow Light:

"Concerning: Requires Further Evaluation"

- Masturbation over other activities and/or involving self-injury
- Sexually intimidating interactions
- Persistent sexual talk, art, play
- Accessing age-restricted materials
- Expressing fear; re: pregnancy or STDs
- Seeking attention/flirting with older individuals
- Kissing or mutual masturbation with unknown peers
- Oral sex or sexual intercourse with same-age peer
- Social media contact with unknown individuals

### Red Light:

"Requires Intervention"

- Self-injurious masturbation
- Engaging vulnerable others in sexual conversations, activities
- Force or coercion of others into sexual activity
- Possessing, accessing sexualized images of children
- Sending or publishing sexual material
- Sexual contact with animals
- Exchange of sex
- Sexual contact/interactions with younger children or more developmentally delayed children



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## Normative vs. Non-normative Behaviors Ages: 14-17 years old

### Green Light:

"Natural and Expected"

- Need for privacy
- Masturbating in private
- Accessing information about sexuality
- Viewing materials for sexual arousal
- Sexually explicit conversations with same sex peers
- Dating/interest in one on one relationships
- Sexual activity with same age
- Social media in relationships

### Yellow Light:

"Concerning: Requires Further Evaluation"

- Sexual preoccupation that interferes with daily function
- Intentional spying on others
- Explicit communication or actions that are intimidating or unwanted
- Unsafe sexual behavior
- Sexual behavior with someone 2 years different in age
- Arranging to meet someone online
- Sending out images of another person without their consent

### Red Light:

"Requires Intervention"

- Self-injurious or compulsive masturbation
- Sexual contact with different ages or developmental differences
- Preoccupation with sexually aggressive and/or illegal pornography
- Sending sexually explicit materials without that person's consent
- Manipulating, lying, or grooming individuals for sexual activity
- Sexual contact with animals
- Exchange of sex
- Possessing, accessing, or sending images of younger individuals