Common Sexual Behaviors

INFANCY (AGES 0-3)
• Exploring, touching and showing their own private parts
• Erections
• Trying to touch mother’s or other women’s breasts
• Wanting to be naked
• Attempting to see others naked
• Asking questions about their own, and others’ bodies and bodily functions
• Having little sense of shame or privacy

PRESCHOOLERS (AGES 3-5)
• Exploring and touching their own private parts, in public and private
• Showing privates to others
• Trying to touch mother’s or other women’s breasts
• Wanting to be naked
• Attempting to see others naked
• Having little sense of shame or privacy
• Asking questions about their own, and others’ bodies and bodily functions
• Curious about gender differences
• Exploring private parts with peers
• Talking about bodily functions
• Uses “dirty” words for bathroom, private body parts or sexual functions
• Mimicking dating behavior

KINDERGARTENERS - 4TH GRADERS (AGES 5-9)
• Attempting to see other people naked or undressing
• Purposefully touching private parts because it feels good - usually in private
• Playing games with children their own age that involve sexual behavior (such as “truth or dare”, “playing family”, or “boyfriend/girlfriend”)
• Looking at pictures of naked or partially naked people
• Interested in animals’ breeding behavior
• Telling “dirty” jokes
• Viewing/listening to sexual content in the media
• Interested in pregnancy & birth
• Wanting more privacy; reluctant to talk to adults about sexual issues

5TH - 8TH GRADERS/PRE- ADOLESCENTS (AGES 10-13)
• Hormonal changes and outside influences, such as peers, media and Internet increase sexual awareness
• Sexual attraction to/interest in peers begins
• Using sexual words and discussing sexual acts and personal values, particularly with peers
• Increased experimentation with sexual behaviors, sexual behavior games
• Kissing, hugging and ‘dating’
• Interested in other people’s body parts and the changes that happen in puberty
• Looking for sexual pictures
• Masturbation in private
• Wanting more privacy; reluctant to talk to adults about sexual issues