

Amy, age 5 asks her classmates if they want to have sex with her.



Assessing this behaviour

In each scenario professionals must ask themselves a number of questions before deciding on which traffic light colour applies:

- Is the presenting behaviour consensual for all children or young people involved?
- Is the behaviour reflective of natural curiosity or experimentation?
- Does the behaviour involve children or young people of a similar age or developmental ability?
- Is the behaviour occurring in a public or private space?
- Is this a cause for concern?
- Are other children or young people showing signs of alarm or distress as a result of the behaviour?

Professionals must consider organisational guidelines including protocols on underage sex before taking action. It is important to think about:

- Does action need to be taken?
- Are there organisation guidelines or procedures to guide you?
- Is there a safeguarding lead or other appropriate person in your organisation who can support you?
- If there is no obvious need for action, can the children or young people involved benefit from extra education or support?

If you are not a professional working within an organisation with internal procedures or frameworks, you may want to consider contacting a specialist organisation that can advise you. For more information, read 'What next' in our Guidance section.

Anishka, age 4 attempts to touch her brother's penis and asks "what is that?"



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Roberto, age 3 persistently attempts to touch the genitals of his male teachers.



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Lucas, age 8 persistently and purposefully walks into the bathroom while his mum's boyfriend is in the shower.



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Simon, age 9 exposes his genitals in the local park with the intention of being seen by passers-by.



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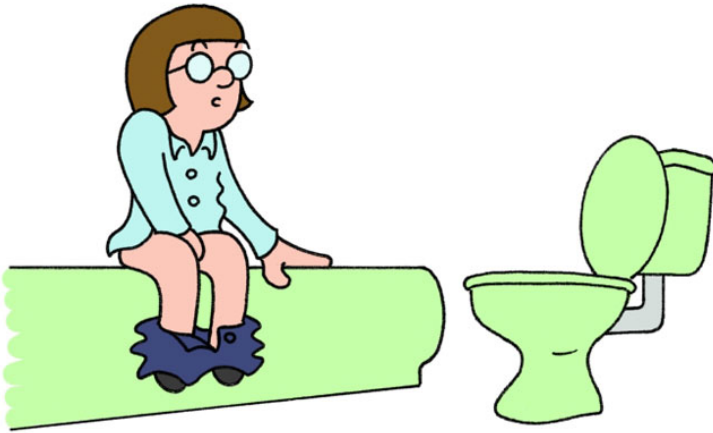
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Jennifer, age 9 is alone in the family bathroom touching her genitals.



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Riley, age 9 and Zoe, age 8 are seen laughing whilst touching the breasts of Cerys, age 10 who is trying to push them away.



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Raul and Emily age 11 and 12 are kissing.



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Ajay, age 13 regularly invites Femi, age 13 who has a learning disability into his bedroom and insists on closing the door.



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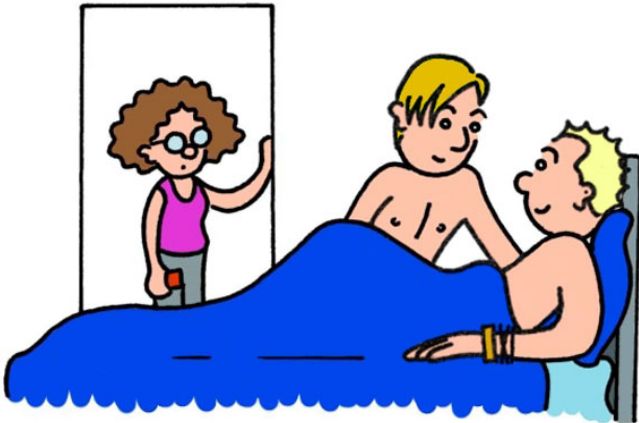
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James, age 16 and Owen, age 17 are seen by Owen's mother in bed together naked.



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- Does the behaviour involve children or young people of a similar age or developmental ability?
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Kobe, age 16 is pressurised into sending a picture of his penis to his classmates' mobile phones.



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Amelia, age 14 gives an online contact her phone number.



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Answers (Page 1 of 3)



Amy, age 5 asks her classmates if they want to have sex with her.

We have placed this in the amber category because:

- there is a potential concern about how Amy has learnt and is using adult language
- her behaviour is affecting other children



Anishka, age 4 attempts to touch her brother's penis and asks "what is that?"

We have placed this in the green category because the behaviour:

- reflects natural curiosity
- reflects healthy development for the age group



Roberto, age 3 persistently attempts to touch the genitals of his male teachers.

We have placed this in the red category because the behaviour:

- makes him vulnerable to abuse
- is of concern due to the type of activity being displayed and it is important to explore why he is behaving in this way



Lucas, age 8 persistently and purposefully walks into the bathroom while his mum's boyfriend is in the shower.

We have placed this in the amber category because:

- there may be no cause for concern but there is a need to take notice and investigate further

Answers (Page 2 of 3)



Simon, age 9 exposes his genitals in the local park with the intention of being seen by passers-by.

We have placed this in the red category because the behaviour:

- is not consensual for all people involved
- is occurring in a public space
- could make him vulnerable by attracting the attention of others



Jennifer, age 9 is alone in the family bathroom touching her genitals.

We have placed this in the green category because the behaviour:

- is safe and healthy
- is taking place in a private space



Riley, age 9 and Zoe, age 8 are seen laughing whilst touching the breasts of Cerys, age 10 who is trying to push them away.

We have placed this in the red category because the behaviour:

- is not consensual for all young people involved



Raul and Emily age 11 and 12 are kissing.

We have placed this in the green category because the behaviour:

- is consensual for all young people involved
- is safe and healthy
- involves young people of a similar age

Answers (Page 3 of 3)



Ajay, age 13 regularly invites Femi, age 13 who has a learning disability into his bedroom and insists on closing the door.

We have placed this in the amber category because:

- the behaviour involves young people with different learning abilities and there is an element of secrecy
- there may be no cause for concern but there is a need to take notice and investigate further



James, age 16 and Owen, age 17 are seen by Owen's mother in bed together naked.

We have placed this in the green category because the behaviour:

- is consensual for all young people involved
- is taking place in a private space
- involves young people of a similar age



Kobe, age 16 is pressurised into sending a picture of his penis to his classmates' mobile phones.

We have placed this in the red category because the behaviour:

- is not consensual for all young people involved
- is affecting other children and young people
- makes him vulnerable to further abuse



Amelia, age 14 gives an online contact her phone number.

We have placed this in the amber category because:

- it is uncertain the age or intent of the online contact
- Amelia could be putting herself in a potentially dangerous situation and there is a need to investigate further