

Responding to children who display sexualised behaviour

This guide has been written by NSPCC to help you decide what kind of sexualised behaviour a young person is displaying, and respond to it in the right way. Use this guide alongside the version completed by your organisation overleaf, and visit nspcc.org.uk/hsb for more information.

Need advice?

Contact our helpline for advice and support:

- Call **0808 800 5000**
- Email **help@nspcc.org.uk**
- Visit **nspcc.org.uk/helpline**

Childline

For children who need further support our free, confidential helpline is available 24/7:

- Call **0800 11 11**
- Visit **childline.org.uk**

Normal/ developmentally typical	Inappropriate	Problematic	Abusive	Violent
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developmentally expected and socially acceptable behaviour • Consensual (P&P), mutual, and reciprocal • Decision making is shared (no coercion) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single instances of developmentally inappropriate behaviour • Behaviour that is socially acceptable within a peer group • Generally consensual and reciprocal • May involve an inappropriate context for behaviour that would otherwise be considered normal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developmentally unusual and socially unexpected behaviour • May be compulsive • Consent may be unclear and the behaviour may not be reciprocal • May involve an imbalance of power • Doesn't have an overt element of victimisation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intrusive behaviour • May involve a misuse of power • May have an element of victimisation • May use coercion and force • May include elements of expressive violence • Informed consent has not been given (or the victim was not able to consent freely) ref:Reg P&P • Use of DA tactics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physically violent sexual abuse • Highly intrusive • May involve instrumental violence which is psychologically and/or sexually arousing to the perpetrator • May involve sadism

How to respond

- Although green behaviours are not concerning, they still require a response
- Listen to what children and young people have to say and respond calmly and non-judgementally
- Talk to parents about developmentally typical sexualised behaviours
- Explain how parents can positively reinforce messages about appropriate sexual behaviour and act to keep their children safe from abuse
- Signpost helpful resources such as our PANTS activity pack: nspcc.org.uk/pants
- Refer to RSE curriculum
- Make sure young people know how to behave responsibly and safely

How to respond

- Amber behaviours should not be ignored
- Listen to what children and young people have to say and respond calmly and non-judgementally
- Follow your organisation's child protection procedures and make a report to the person responsible for child protection
- Your policy or procedure should guide you towards a designated health safeguarding lead who can be notified and will provide support
- Consider whether the child or young person needs therapeutic support and make referrals as appropriate
- YJA Sexting Scheme
- RSE curriculum (Health Relationship)
- E safety (links)
- Evidence Based Parenting Programmes
- HUBs C&PPS
- If C/YP known to SW Service share information asap.
- Consider threshold for referral to Gateway in consultation with relevant SG lead

How to respond

- Red behaviours indicate a need for immediate intervention and action
 - If a child is in immediate danger call the police on 999
 - Follow your organisation's child protection procedures and make a report to the person responsible for child protection
 - Your policy or procedure should guide you towards a designated health safeguarding lead who can be notified and will provide support
 - Refer to CP Gateway for initial risk assessment
 - Gateway staff to consider AIM assessment
 - Commission AIM from appropriate services
 - Consider the use CASPR
 - Refer the child or young person for targeted supports services
- These include: Goodway Model / Change for Good / Safer Homes**

Responding to children who display sexualised behaviour

This guide has been completed by your organisation. You can use it to help you identify the sexualised behaviours a child is displaying and understand the steps your organisation has asked you to follow when responding. Please speak to your manager or safeguarding lead if you have any questions or concerns.

Responsible Agencies	Responsible Agencies	Responsible Agencies
Education Authority SG leads Gateway C&YP services PHA Public Health Nursing NSPCC C& V agencies Councils General Practitioners Schools Trusts Primary Healthcare Professionals Allied Health professionals	NSPCC CSA HUB CAMHs C&V agencies Education Authority (SG lead) Schools Womens Aid Youth Justice Agency NSPCC online safety NSPCC Childline NSPCC Helpline Independent SW Trust: Gateway / FIT/ transition Team / LAC + Primary Healthcare	SS Gateway Referral PSNI (PPU) Forensic CAMHs CAMHs NSPCC