

Barometer of concern

2-5-year-old children



6-10-year-old children



11-14-year-old children/adolescents



Normal behaviour

- Exhibit age-appropriate interest in sexuality
- Play age-appropriate sexualized games with peers
- Play sexual games with other children characterized by equality, reciprocity and curiosity
- Touch family members' genitals and breasts
- Examine oneself
- Play house
- Say naughty words
- Explore the differences between boys and girls
- Examine each other while playing doctor games with a sexual content.
- Ask questions about sex and conception
- Stimulate oneself by touching genitals or rub them against something
- Show off
- Can have erection

- Exhibit age-appropriate interest in sexuality
- Play age-appropriate sexualized games with peers
- Play sexualized games with other children characterized by equality, reciprocity and curiosity
- Ask questions about genitals, breasts, sexual intercourse and conception
- Masturbate in secret
- Say naughty words
- Dress up as the opposite sex
- Do not want anyone to look while using the toilet or getting dressed
- Expose private parts in play to appear cool

- Exhibit age-appropriate interest in sexuality
- Play age-appropriate sexualized games with peers
- Masturbate in secret – perhaps in a group of several children
- Are strongly interested in the technical issues concerning sex, conception etc.
- Love to say naughty words
- Do everything to hide their growing sexuality from parents
- Do not like it if someone looks while changing clothes or using the toilet.
- Surf the internet in sites with a sexual content and show interest for pornography
- Have great interest in their own as well as the opposite sex

Behaviour demanding enhanced attention and intervention

- Exhibit excessive interest in sexual activities.
- Exhibit sexually unacceptable behaviour rather than interest in more age-appropriate activities/games
- Exhibit sexual behaviour and curiosity other than most children's sexual behaviour and natural curiosity
- Display age-inappropriate knowledge about sexuality, e.g. strikingly precocious or adult-like knowledge about sex
- Play sexual games leading to complaints from other children
- Take part in sexual activities characterized by a rather big difference in age, maturity and intellectuality between the children participating
- Play with feces
- Sexually "inviting" towards adults
- Try repeatedly to get other children or adults to touch their genitals
- Lick other children's genitals or encourage other children to do it to them
- Attempt to complete genital or anal intercourse
- Try repeatedly to put things into their own or others' vagina/anus - in spite of pain and/or reprimands from adults
- Obsessed with sex and primus motor in sexual activities
- Constantly talk about sex and make sexual drawings
- Not capable of changing behavioural pattern in spite of reprimands from adults

- Exhibit excessive interest in sexual activities
- Exhibit sexually unacceptable behaviour rather than interest in more age-appropriate activities/games
- Exhibit sexual behaviour and curiosity other than most children's sexual behaviour and natural curiosity
- Exhibit excessive interest in pornography
- Display age-inappropriate knowledge about sexuality, e.g. strikingly precocious or adult-like knowledge about sex
- Play sexual games leading to complaints from other children
- Touch and rub their genitals in public
- Bribe, threat or force other children to participate in sexual activities
- Take part in sexual activities characterized by a rather big difference in age, maturity and intellectuality between the children participating
- Lick other children's genitals or ask other children to do it to them
- Attempt to complete sexual intercourse or insert objects into genital or anus
- Obsessed with sex and primus motor in sexual activities
- Constantly talk about sex and make sexual drawings
- Sexually "inviting" towards other children or adults
- Rub genitals against furniture, other people etc.
- Not capable of changing behavioural pattern in spite of reprimands from adults

- Exhibit a sexual behaviour which goes beyond normal limits instead of participating in more age-appropriate activities/games
- Play sexual games leading to complaints from other children/adolescents
- Play sexual games leading to anxiety, shame and guilt
- Bribe, threat or force other children to participate in sexual activities
- Take part in sexual activities characterized by a rather big difference in age, maturity and intellectuality between the children participating
- Have an excessive consumption of pornography
- Speak very openly about sex
- Show or publish pictures or movies with sexual content on mobile phone or on the internet
- Lick other children's/adolescents' genitals or ask them to do it to them
- Attempt to complete genital or anal intercourse
- Obsessed with sex – beyond what would be considered as expected for children/adolescents at that age
- Not capable of changing behavioural pattern in spite of reprimands from adults

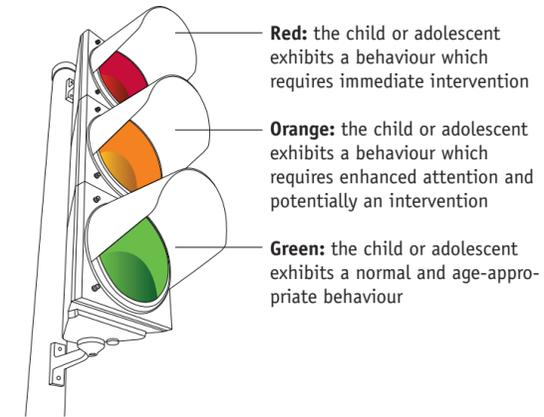
Behaviour demanding immediate intervention

- If a victim tells about assaults involving oral, anal or vaginal penetration or other kinds of intimidating assaults
- Try to force others to touch their genitals
- In spite of pain force objects into own or others vagina or anus
- Force other children to play doctor games
- Force other children to take off their clothes
- Use physical force or threats to get other children to participate in sexual activities
- Play gender-role games with a verbally or physically aggressive content
- Perform harmful sexual actions towards others
- Lure or threaten victims such as weak children into sexual activities
- Exhibit sexual behaviour that appears compulsive or aggressive
- Perform sexual actions towards other children against their will as a reaction to crises (e.g. domestic violence)
- Seem indifferent to whether his/her actions harm or hurt other children or make them unhappy
- Sexualized behaviour towards animals

- Exhibit compulsive or aggressive sexual behaviour
- Perform sexual actions towards other children against their will as a reaction to crises (e.g. domestic violence)
- Play gender-role games with a verbal or physical aggressive content
- Seem indifferent to whether his/her actions harm or hurt other children or make them unhappy
- Big age difference (e.g. 14-year old boy displays sexual behaviour towards a 6-year old)
- A victim tells about assaults involving oral, anal or vaginal penetrations or other kinds of intimidating assaults
- Are exposed to threats, violence and secrecy
- Use physical force or threats to get other children to participate in sexual activities
- Strongly dislike one's gender – dissociate oneself from one's gender
- Aggressive or burst into tears if anyone is looking while changing clothes or going to the bathroom
- Perform harmful sexual actions towards others
- Lure or threaten victims such as weak children into sexual activities
- Sexualized behaviour towards animals

- Big age difference (e.g. 14-year old boy displays sexual behaviour towards a 6-year old)
- If a victim tells about assaults involving oral, anal or vaginal penetrations or other kinds of intimidating assaults
- Are exposed to threats, violence and secrecy
- Force others to sexualized behaviour
- Sexually "inviting" towards adults or children
- Touch other children's and adults' private parts and expose themselves
- Play gender-role games with a verbal or physical aggressive content
- Perform harmful sexual actions towards others
- Lure or threaten victims such as weak children into sexual activities
- Get other children to participate in sexual activities using physical force or threats
- Perform sexual actions towards other children against their will as a reaction to crises (e.g. domestic violence)
- Seem indifferent to whether his/her actions harm or hurt other children or make them unhappy
- Sexualized behaviour towards animals

How to read the barometer of concern:



Red: the child or adolescent exhibits a behaviour which requires immediate intervention

Orange: the child or adolescent exhibits a behaviour which requires enhanced attention and potentially an intervention

Green: the child or adolescent exhibits a normal and age-appropriate behaviour

The purpose of the barometer of concern

The overall purpose is to prevent sexual abuse of children and adolescents committed by children and adolescents and to prevent sexually problematic behaviour exhibited by children and adolescents. This may concern cases of indecent exposure, groping as well as more severe sexual harmful behaviour. A large proportion of children and adolescents with sexually problematic or harmful behaviour have been exposed to abuse themselves. Therefore, it is important to be able to recognize symptoms of sexual problematic behaviour and/or abuse and intervene as soon as possible. The barometer of concern is a guideline for professionals and relatives which can be used in order to differ between normal and concerning sexuality and when to intervene.

Further questions:



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Barometer of concern

The barometer of concern is a guideline on whether behaviour exhibited by children and adolescents should provoke concern and when to intervene.

Green indicates that the child or adolescent exhibits a normal and age-appropriate behaviour.

Orange indicates that the child or adolescent exhibits a behaviour which requires enhanced attention and potentially an intervention.

Red indicates that the child or adolescent exhibits a behaviour which requires immediate intervention.

The JanusCentre

The JanusCentre serves to prevent sexual abuse of children through early intervention with children and adolescents who exhibit sexual behaviour problems.

The clinic offers treatment to 4-18 years old boys and girls who have exhibited sexual behaviour problems or sexual harmful behaviour. Furthermore the offer is directed at parents and professionals who have contact with these children.

The JanusCentre offers:

- Psychological and sexual assessment: exploration of difficulties and resources of children and adolescents in order to assess treatment needs
- Assessment of risk of recidivism
- Psychological treatment of children and adolescents and their families, individual and group therapy
- Mediation/Restorative meetings between victim and offender as well as others involved, including parents
- Cooperation/coordination with Social Services and other professionals who might be involved
- Counselling and supervision to professionals who are in contact with children and adolescents who sexually harm others
- Counselling to parents whose child has exhibited sexual harmful behaviour
- Parents Group for parents whose child has exhibited sexual harmful behaviour
- Counselling and supervision to social workers and psychologists who work with children and adolescents with sexual behaviour problems who are placed in children's homes or in foster care
- Seminars, lecturing and education offered to professionals

Children and adolescents are referred to the clinic in close co-operation with the Social Service System.

For further information, visit www.januscentret.dk or call +45 3369 0369