

NORMAL DEVELOPMENT

OR

PROBLEMATIC SEXUAL BEHAVIORS

Preschool & Elementary

Asks questions about bodies,
gender, and babies.



Constant questions about sex or
knowledge that is too great for
their age.

Interest in touching genitals of
other same age children or having a
another child touch theirs.



Coercing or forcing another child to
allow touching of their genitals.

Inspecting their own genitals and
exploring physical sensations.



Coercing or forcing another child by
putting something in their genitals or
causing harm to their own/another's
genitals.

Playing house and acting out roles
like Mommy and Daddy.



Simulated or real intercourse.

Wants to take off clothes and may
want to show others their genitals.



Refuses to put clothes on, exposes
self to others after many
redirections.

Being affectionate with familiar
adults and children.



Overly familiar with strangers.
Talks/acts in a sexualized manner
with unknown adults or children.



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Middle School

Has questions about the meaning of sexual words, slang, and acts.



Repeatedly uses sexual language or behaviors despite consequences.

Is unsure or embarrassed when caregivers want to talk about puberty and/or sexual topics.



Has an overly strong reaction, such as extreme fear or disgust regarding puberty and/or sexual topics.

Sexual experimentation between children of the same age.



Participates in illegal sexual activities.

Curiosity about relationships and sexual behavior.



Adult-like sexual knowledge and language.

Touches own genitals in private.



Touches own genitals in public even after consequences. Causes harm to own genitals.

Interested in sex, sexuality, and sexually explicit materials.



After consequences, continue to view pornography (especially violent pornography) or takes pictures/videos genitals/sexual behaviors.



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High School

Is concerned about physical and sexual attractiveness.



Takes pictures/videos of own and others' sexual behaviors.

Shares online about relationship status.



Posts sexually explicit and/or violent material.

Masturbation continues in private.



Masturbation in front of non-consenting others or in public places.

Sexual experimentation with same age peers.



Sexual activity with adults/unknown others.

May be influenced to engage in risky behaviors (sex, drugs, alcohol).



Participates (or is forced) into sexual acts in exchange for money or drugs .

Looks at or masturbates to nude pictures and videos.

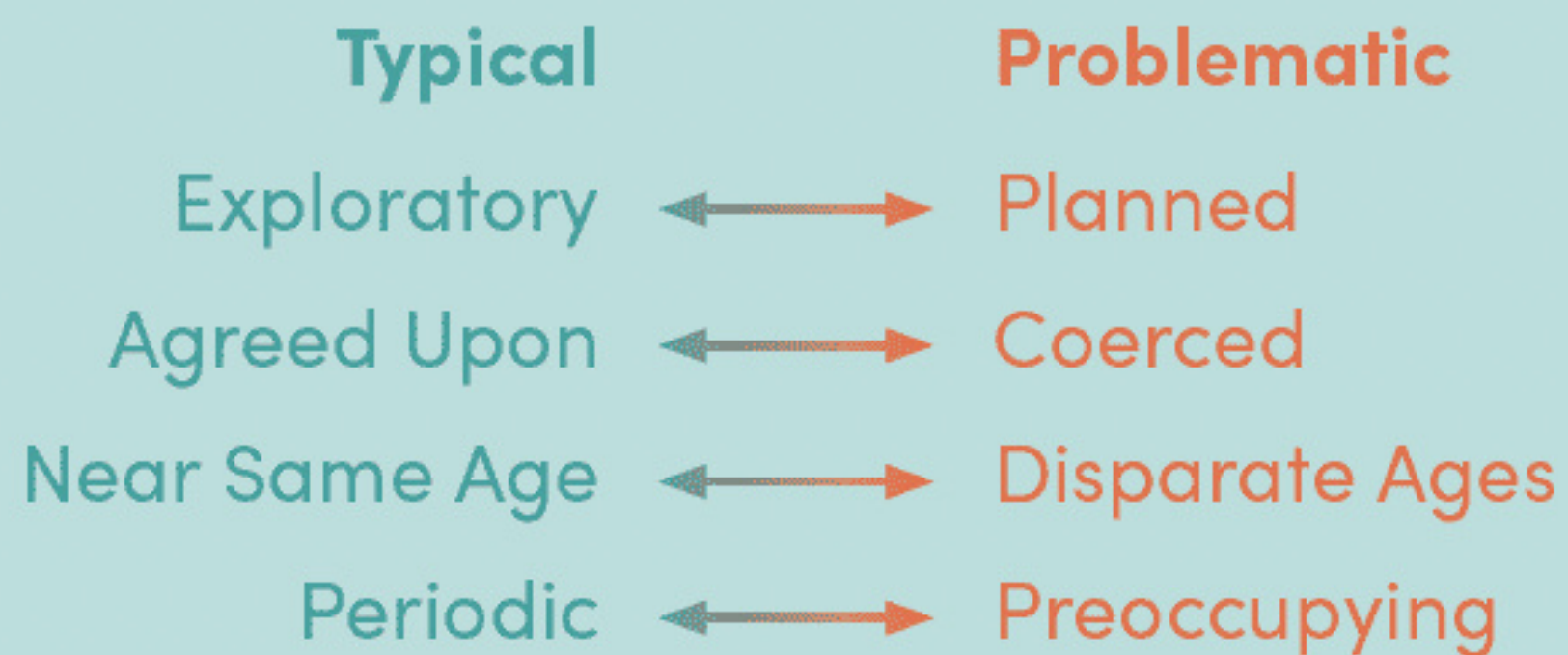


Masturbates till the point of pain or injury. Masturbates to violent or illegal pornography.



WHAT IF I NOTICE PROBLEMATIC SEXUAL BEHAVIOR?

Sexual behavior is a continuum



Source: *Understanding Children and Youth with Problematic Sexual Behaviors* – “What Can We Do” National Children’s Alliance

