

Response checklist – developmentally appropriate sexual behaviour

This checklist helps you to consider all the requirements in the ‘sexual behaviour in children and young people procedure’. See the procedure for important details.

Whole-site and public health approaches to prevention

- Adopt, monitor and review whole-site and public health approaches to prevention.
- Create and maintain supportive, safe and inclusive learning environments.
- Teach and model behaviour expectations, social and emotional skills, safe behaviour and sexual health education in an age and developmentally appropriate way.
- Teach child safety and respectful relationships curriculum.
- Teach about consent and the importance of seeking, giving and denying permission in relationships.
- Adjust the curricula to ensure all children and young people can access the required learning.

See the ‘sexual behaviour in children and young people guideline’ for detailed information about whole-site and public health approaches to prevention.

Responding to developmentally appropriate sexual behaviour that occurs at the wrong time and/or in the wrong place

- Respond proportionally to any incidents – consider your first reaction, do not punish or shame.
- Safely intervene to stop or interrupt the behaviour.
- Describe the behaviour in a way that the child or young person understands.
- Describe the impact of the behaviour on others.

- Remind them of the behaviour expectations of your site.
- Redirect to expected behaviour.
- Communicate about healthy sexuality (such as when redirecting developmentally appropriate holding of genitals or masturbation during group time in preschool, refer to the behaviour as private).

Document and report to the site leader behaviour that is inconsistent with the site’s behaviour expectations

- Document sexual behaviour and the response, including updating personalised learning plans such as behaviour support plans.
- Report sexual behaviour to site leaders.

Communicating with parents

- Let parents know about:
 - developmentally appropriate sexual behaviour
 - the impact that disability and additional needs may have on what may be considered developmentally appropriate
 - behaviour expectations of the site.
- Explain how parents can positively reinforce messages about appropriate sexual behaviour.
- Provide parents with ‘sexual behaviour in children and young people: information for parents and carers’.
- Educate parents about child safety, respectful relationships, consent and sexual health education.

Work with others

- Communicate with DCP worker if the child or young person has an open DCP case.