Range of sexual behaviours among children

Sexual behaviour ranges from common sexual play to problematic sexual behaviour

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Common sexual play

- is a normal part of a child's development and it is normal for small children to touch/fondle themselves, they can be gently told that it is better not do this in public and that they should not touch the private parts of another child's body
- Is exploratory, playful and spontaneous
- Inspired by curiosity- showing each other parts of bodies and comparing boys and girls differences
- Occurs occasionally by mutual agreement
- Takes place between children of similar ages, sizes or developmental levels
- Decreases when children are mildly restricted or told the rules.
- Decreases when they are supervised and praised for appropriate behaviour

Problematic sexual behaviour

- is frequent, repeated or compulsive behaviour
- is behaviour which is beyond a child's age appropriate level of understanding
- is behaviour that escalates in intensity-affecting normal childhood activities
- occurs between children who don't know each other well
- affects normal childhood activities
- occurs between children of different ages, sizes or developmental levels
- involves simulated intercourse, including the insertion of objects into vagina or anus
- is coerced, causes harm or distress
- does not decrease after a child is told to stop