

Sexual Development

0 to 3 Years Old



Age	Typical Development	Typical Sexual Development
0 to 1 year old	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Takes first step <input type="checkbox"/> Begins to make sounds and babble (“ma-ma” / “pa-pa”) <input type="checkbox"/> Develops bonds and trust with parents and caregivers <input type="checkbox"/> Smiles at people <input type="checkbox"/> Follows objects and people with their eyes <input type="checkbox"/> Participates in basic play <input type="checkbox"/> Knows familiar faces (stranger anxiety begins) <input type="checkbox"/> Responds to sights, sounds, touch, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> Begins to understand basic instructions (“no”) <input type="checkbox"/> Learns through senses (sight, smell, taste, hearing, touch), puts objects in mouth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Curious about their body <input type="checkbox"/> No concerns about being naked (nudity)
1 to 2 years old	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> May have temper tantrums <input type="checkbox"/> Experience stranger anxiety <input type="checkbox"/> Uses imagination during play (tries to feed doll/teddy bear) <input type="checkbox"/> Explores their environment with parent nearby <input type="checkbox"/> Copies and imitates others <input type="checkbox"/> Becomes more independent (doing things on their own) <input type="checkbox"/> Follows simple instructions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Curious about their body, including genitals (private parts) <input type="checkbox"/> Touching genitals <input type="checkbox"/> No concerns about nudity
2 to 3 years old	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Takes turns when playing <input type="checkbox"/> Pretend play begins <input type="checkbox"/> Kicks a ball <input type="checkbox"/> Follows 2 or 3 step directions <input type="checkbox"/> Sorts objects by shape and color <input type="checkbox"/> Copies and imitates adults and playmates <input type="checkbox"/> Shows different emotions <input type="checkbox"/> Names colors <input type="checkbox"/> Shows affection <input type="checkbox"/> Notices a difference between genders <input type="checkbox"/> Helps to dress and undress themselves <input type="checkbox"/> Plays with other children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Occasional masturbation (touching of their own private parts) as a soothing behavior in public or in private <input type="checkbox"/> May be curious about adult bodies <input type="checkbox"/> No concerns about nudity