

CHILD SEXUAL DEVELOPMENT

Glossary

Learn more about common words used when talking to your child about sexual development.

Common Words That Are Used When Talking About Sexual Development:

Gender: How a society or culture believes people should look, think, and act.

Gender identity: How a person feels inside and how they show themselves with clothing, behavior and personal look.

Masturbation: Touch or rub their own genitals because they like the way it feels.

Puberty: The time when kids mature into young adults through physical and emotional changes.

Genitals: External sex and reproductive organs (vulva, penis, and scrotum).

Sexual orientation: Refers to the gender to which a person is emotionally, romantically, or sexually attracted to.

Sexuality: How sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, interests, and behaviors shape and are shaped by one's life and social context.

Sexually transmitted diseases or infections: Infections spread from person to person during sex (vaginal, oral, or anal) or close sexual contact.

Resources

Healthy Development at Every Age



Tips for Talking with Children

