

Professional Resources

- Child Protection 498-6990
- ChildSafe 493-3833
- Mental Health providers
- Law Enforcement
 - Colorado State University 491-6425
 - Ft. Collins 221-6540
 - Loveland 667-2151
 - Estes Park 586-4000
 - Berthoud 532-2611
 - Larimer County Sheriff 498-5100
- Medical Doctor



The mission of the Larimer County Child Advocacy Center is to reduce trauma to children during child abuse investigations. We provide a child-friendly setting for forensic interviews and the coordination of services while ensuring children and families receive effective and sensitive support.

Larimer County Child Advocacy Center
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Sexual behavior in school age children tends to be more private than public. As they move into puberty, children are very interested in the changes in their body.



Developmentally Appropriate Behaviors

- 1) Mutual sex play with children close in age engaged in lightheartedly; for example, undressing, looking, playing “doctor”.
- 2) Masturbation occasionally in private.
- 3) An increasing awareness of privacy; for example, wanting to use the bathroom alone.
- 4) The lines between gender roles are not clearly defined; for example, sports for girls, cooking for boys.

Potentially Concerning Behaviors

- 1) Putting mouth on other people’s genitals. Simulating or performing adult sexual behaviors.
- 2) Excessive masturbation to the exclusion of other activities or with objects or in public.
- 3) Using threats, bribes, manipulation or force to engage others in sex play.
- 4) Shows unusual fascination or obsession with genitalia.

Ways to Respond

Although you may feel shocked, panicked or frightened, your reaction is critical to helping your child.

- 1) Remain calm.
- 2) Stop the behavior.
- 3) Initiate a conversation about the behavior.
- 4) Seek professional help. The following types of agencies or professions can assist you.
 - Child protection agency
 - Mental health professional
 - Law enforcement
 - Physician or nurse

Ways to Respond

- 1) Redirect this behavior. Read books with your child or give them access to books about sex, sexuality and puberty.
- 2) Talk with your child about keeping their genitals private.
- 3) Talk with your child about privacy for themselves and others.
- 4) Expose your child to a wide range of cross-gender activities.



Putting The Pieces Together