# Spectrum of Sexualized Behavior

Green Light Behavior = Developmentally appropriate, related to action that is physiologically driven and/or imitation of behavior typical for child’s environment.

Yellow Light Behavior= Actions related to re-enactment and imitation of behavior that should not be typical for child to witness. May also be a product of high levels of stress- attempt to relieve stress using primitive soothing strategies.

Red Light Behavior= Actions most likely related to first-hand experience that could not be obtained from witnessing an act. These behaviors may also be exhibited by children with significant developmental delay and/or mental illness.

**Pre-pubescent**

***“Red Light”***

***Sexual Behaviors***

* *Touching another child’s private parts by using force and/or coercion*
* *Sexual preoccupation/anxiety that interferes with daily functioning*
* *Penetration (using objects or fingers) of their own body, a peer’s body, or an animal’s body*
* *Sex play with dolls that has themes of violence and degradation*
* *Forcing another child to touch their private parts by using threats or force*

***“Yellow Light”***

***Sexualized Behavior***

* *Simulating intercourse with dolls or peers*
* *Pulling a peer’s pants down or forcibly looking at another peer’s private parts*
* *Frequent masturbation*
* *Mutual masturbation*
* *Preoccupation with Sexual*

 *Themes*

* *Sexually explicit conversations with peers*

***“Green Light”***

***Sexualized Behavior***

* *Occasional Masturbation*
* *Genital or reproduction*

*conversations with peers or similar age siblings*

* *Playing “doctor”*
* *“Show me yours and I’ll show you mine” with same age peers*
* *Imitating Adult Behavior (i.e. kissing, flirting)*

**Post-pubescent**

***“Green Light”***

***Sexualized Behavior***

* *Sexually explicit conversations with peers*
* *Sexual innuendo, flirting and courtship*
* *Interest in erotica*
* *Solitary masturbation*
* *Hugging, kissing, holding hands*

***“Yellow Light”***

***Sexualized Behavior***

* *Sexual preoccupation/anxiety that interferes with daily functioning*
* *Pornographic interest*
* *Sexually aggressive themes/obscenities*
* *Embarrassment of others with sexual themes*
* *Violation of others’ body space*
* *Pulling skirts up/pants down*

***“Red Light”***

***Sexual Behaviors***

* *Groping/touching genital areas with the intention*

 *of violating another’s body*

* *Using aggression and force to obtain any physical*

 *intimacy*

* *Use of coersion or blackmail to obtain sexual compliance (i.e. threats of rumor spreading, distributing pictures)*
* *Forcing others to watch pornography or participate in pornographic recreation*
* *Forced penetration (digital, objects, genital)*

***Note:***

 *~Behavioral symptoms alone cannot confirm sexual abuse*

*~Behaviors are separated by pre-pubescent and post-pubescent*