

What Children Should Know About Human Sexuality and When

As a parent, you know which subjects are appropriate to discuss with your child and when. Use the following recommendations and helpful guidelines to assist in the process.

BY AGE 5, A CHILD SHOULD:

- Use correct terms for body parts
- Be able to understand the concept of “female” and “male”
- Know the difference between “good touch” and “bad touch” and when to tell an adult a bad touch happened
- Know where babies come from and able to use appropriate language
- When applicable, be able to talk about body parts without a sense of naughtiness

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN, AGES 6 TO 9 SHOULD:

- Have an awareness of the life cycle
- Have and use an acceptable vocabulary for communication about body parts of both girls and boys
- Have a grasp of different types of families
- Be able to identify family roles and responsibilities
- Have an awareness of gender stereotypes and acknowledge that one’s sex does not determine one’s activities
- Take an active role in managing their body’s health and safety
- Be able to maintain friendships

