

# Responding to Child Abuse and Neglect in Idaho

## The Idaho Children's Trust Fund

Call the Idaho Children's Trust Fund/ Prevent Child Abuse Idaho at 208-386-9317 or [www.idahochildrenstrustfund.org](http://www.idahochildrenstrustfund.org) for information about the prevention of child abuse and neglect.



**If you have a concern, take action immediately. Remember: it is NOT your job to prove anything! If you suspect abuse, your only job is to report to the police or protective services.**

To make a report call Central Intake any time of the day or night.  
Statewide: 1-855-552-5437, Treasure Valley: 208-334-5437, or you can call 211.

You are not required to provide proof of child abuse. Anyone who makes a good faith report based on reasonable grounds cannot be prosecuted. If the abuse occurred within the past 72 hours, a medical evaluation by a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner is available by going to the Emergency Department at any local hospital.

### Who is Required to Report Child Abuse?

Idaho law says that any person who has reason to believe that a child is being abused, neglected, or abandoned **MUST** report this to your local law enforcement agency or the **Department of Health and Welfare** within 24 hours. Failure to report suspected abuse, neglect, or abandonment is a misdemeanor.

**Every state uses its own definitions of abuse and neglect as defined in their statutes.**

In Idaho, **physical abuse** constitutes any physical injury to a child which has a cause other than accidental means, including any injury which appears to be inconsistent with the explanation given for the injury. **Physical neglect** exists when there is failure on the part of the child's caretaker to provide necessities such as adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical treatment, or supervision. **Sexual abuse** includes sexual acts and exploitation of a child.

### \*Helplines\*

Advocates Against Family Violence Crisis Line  
(208) 459-6279

Idaho Careline 211 or 1-800-926-2588

Idaho Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence  
1-888-293-6118 or [www.idvsa.org](http://www.idvsa.org)

Idaho Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-669-3176  
or [www.ywcaidaho.org](http://www.ywcaidaho.org)

Idaho Mental Health Crisis Hotline 208-334-0808  
or 1-800-600-6474

Idaho Suicide Prevention 1-800-564-2120  
or [www.spanidaho.org](http://www.spanidaho.org)

Women's and Children's Alliance Domestic Violence  
Crisis Line 208-343-7025

Women's and Children's Alliance Rape Crisis Line  
208-345-7273

### \*Treatment Providers\*

CARES (St. Lukes) 208-577-4460

FACES Family Advocacy Center 208-577-4400  
or [www.adacountyfaces.com](http://www.adacountyfaces.com)

Idaho Federation of Families for Children's Mental  
Health 208-433-8845 or  
[www.idahofederation.org](http://www.idahofederation.org)

Jefferson Street Counseling 208-385-0888

SANE Solutions (Terry Reilly) 208-345-1170 or  
[www.trhs.org/Services/SANESolutions.aspx](http://www.trhs.org/Services/SANESolutions.aspx)

Terry Reilly Health Services (Counseling)  
208-467-4431

Women's and Children's Alliance 208-343-7025  
or [www.wcaboise.org](http://www.wcaboise.org)

### \*Legal Help\*

Idaho Volunteer Lawyer's Program 1-800-221-3295  
Legal Aid Services of Idaho [www.idaholegalaid.org](http://www.idaholegalaid.org)  
or 208-336-8980

### \*Prevention of Child Abuse\*

Idaho Children's Trust Fund/ Prevent Child Abuse  
Idaho 208-386-9317 or  
[www.idahochildrenstrustfund.org](http://www.idahochildrenstrustfund.org)

Idaho Coalition Against Sexual And Domestic Violence  
800-669-3176/ 208-384-0419 or  
[www.idvsa.org/](http://www.idvsa.org/)

### \*Support Groups\*

Domestic Violence Survivors 208-343-3688

Domestic Violence (Women) 208-467-4130

### \*Victim Advocacy\*

Advocates Against Family Violence (208) 459-4779  
Boise Police Department Victim's Wellness Unit  
208-573-7801

Domestic Violence Legal Advice Line 1-877-500-2980

Family Advocacy Center (FACES) 208-577-4400

Family Advocates/ Court Appointed Special  
Advocates (CASA) 208-345-3344 or  
[www.familyadvocate.org](http://www.familyadvocate.org)

Nampa Family Justice Center 208-475-5705

### \*Helpful Websites\*

American BAR Association [www.abanet.org](http://www.abanet.org)

The American Psychological Association [www.apa.org](http://www.apa.org)

Darkness 2 Light [www.darkness2light.org](http://www.darkness2light.org)

Idaho Department of Health and Welfare  
[www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/Children  
AbuseNeglect/tabid/74/Default.aspx](http://www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/ChildrenAbuseNeglect/tabid/74/Default.aspx)

The National Association of Social Workers  
[www.naswdc.org](http://www.naswdc.org)

National Center for Victims of Crime [www.ncvc.org](http://www.ncvc.org)

National Children's Alliance [www.nca-online.org](http://www.nca-online.org)

National Clearing House on Abuse and Neglect  
[www.nccanch.acf.hhs.gov](http://www.nccanch.acf.hhs.gov)

Stewards of Children [www.darkness2light.org](http://www.darkness2light.org)

Stop It Now! [www.stopitnow.org](http://www.stopitnow.org)

# Healthy Childhood Sexual Development and How to Talk to Your Child about Sex and Sexual Abuse

## Infancy (Birth- Age 2)

### Normal Sexual Development

- Learn through relationship with caregivers
- Focus on developing a sense of trust
- Learn about body through sense of touch
- May make distinction between males and females
- May explore genitals
- May have spontaneous reactions that appear sexual (e.g., erection, lubrication)
- No inhibitions about nudity

### Adults can facilitate healthy sexual development by:

- Using correct anatomical terms for body parts (referring to body parts by non anatomical names is common but not necessarily healthy or natural)
- Modeling “comfortable” touch (e.g., hugs that are not forced upon the child)
- Talking to child about boundaries as the opportunity arises (e.g., during diapering or bath tell child that genitals are off limits)

## Toddler and Preschool Years (2-5 years old)

### Normal Sexual Development

- Develop language to describe genitalia
- Should clearly know difference between males and females
- May know basics of human reproduction (e.g., babies grow inside mother’s tummy)
- Often masturbate
- Often engage in consensual genital exploration with same age peers
- May show curiosity about adult genitalia (e.g., may try to see Mommy nude)
- No inhibitions about nudity

### Adults can facilitate healthy sexual development by:

- Teaching child the difference between appropriate touch and unacceptable touch by not forcing child to have physical contact
- Modeling the importance of privacy during bathing and toileting and giving child permission to be private about his/her own nudity
- Using everyday opportunities to teach child fundamentals of sexuality, give simple and direct answers to child’s questions about sex
- Teaching child that touching oneself feels good, is OK, and can be done in private
- Teaching child to respect other people’s boundaries and privacy

## Middle Childhood (5-8 years old)

### Normal Sexual Development

- Gender identity solidifies and stabilizes
- Should have basic understanding of puberty (some children, especially girls, will show early signs of puberty)
- Should have basic understanding of human reproduction
- May understand differences in sexual orientation
- May masturbate
- Will develop more stable friendships
- May engage in consensual genital exploration with same age (and often, same sex) peers
- Will begin to be modest about nudity

### Adults can facilitate healthy sexual development by:

- Talking (and listening) with child about bodily responses, especially those that are precursors to sexual response and about what is and is not appropriate during peer interaction
- Modeling healthy, intimate adult relationships characterized by effective communication
- Teaching child about male and female puberty
- Using everyday opportunities to teach child about sexuality, even the mechanics of reproduction (children should know the “birds and the bees” by no later than 9 years old—research shows that children whose parents talk with them about sexuality are less likely to become sexually active at an early age)

## Tweens (9-12 years)

### Normal Sexual Development

- Onset of puberty, questions menstruation and pregnancy
- Desires more privacy and modesty
- Values same sex friendships
- Experiences increased sexual feelings including romantic feelings for same or opposite sex
- May experience gender confusion (e.g. Am I gay?)
- May explore sexual activity with peers
- May masturbate to orgasm

## Adolescence (13-18 years)

### Normal Sexual Development

- Continues and completes changes of puberty
- Values independence
- Experiences increased sexual feelings and wants physical closeness with a partner including kissing, fondling, and oral sex (1/3 of adolescents have intercourse)
- May choose romantic relationships over friendships
- May encounter violence in relationships
- Internet exploration of sexual material
- May engage in risky behaviors

### Recommended Books About Sex:

- What’s the Big Secret? Talking about Sex with Girls and Boys By Laurie Krasny Brown and Marc Brown
- How to Talk to Your Child about Sex, It’s Best to Start Early, but it’s Never too Late- A Step by Step Guide for Parents By Linda and Richard Eyre
- Where Did I Come From? The Facts of Life Without any Nonsense and with Illustrations By Peter Mayle
- Sex Without Shame, Encouraging the Child’s Healthy Sexual Development By Alayne Yates
- Beyond the Birds and the Bees, Fostering your Child’s Healthy Sexual Development By Beverly Engle

### Recommended Books About Sexual Abuse:

- The Right Touch: A Read Aloud Story to Help Prevent Child Sexual Abuse By Sandy Kleven
- A Very Touching Book, for Little People and for Big People By Jan Hindman
- My Body is Private By Linda Walvoord Girard, Rodney Pate
- It’s My Body By Lory Freeman
- Telling Isn’t Tattling By Kathryn Hammerseng
- Your Body Belongs to You By Cornelia Spelman
- When I was Little Like You By Jane Porett
- Fred the Fox Shouts “No!” By Tatiana Matthews