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Dear Stop It Now! Helpline,
Is My Child a Pedophile?

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Content warning:
Child sexual abuse
Sexual violence

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Objectives


- Describe benefits of family involvement
- Recognize barriers to treatment for families and parents
- Identifying best practices to engage parents
- Discuss communication concerns about a youth's sexual risk to others
- Expand lens of youth's sexual behavior problems



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Problematic Sexual Behaviors vs Pedophilia


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| <p>PSB</p> <p>Sexual touching between children can be sexually abusive when there is a significant age difference (often defined as 3 or more years) between the children or if the children are very different developmentally or size-wise.</p> <p>Also of note: force, coercion, mature sexual behaviors.</p> | <p>Pedophilia</p> <p>A. Over a period of at least 6 months, recurrent, intense sexually arousing fantasies, sexual urges, or behaviors involving sexual activity with a prepubescent child or children (generally age 13 years or younger).</p> <p>B. The person has acted on these urges, or the sexual urges or fantasies cause marked distress or interpersonal difficulty.</p> <p>C. The person is at least age 16 years and at least 5 years older than the child or children in Criterion A.</p> |
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Why Do Youth Act in Sexually Harmful Ways?

- Exposure to age-/inappropriate sexual information, situations or media
- Exposure to or experiences of victimization and/or violence
- Sexually abusive experiences
- Developmental, cognitive, or socio-emotional delays/challenges
- Drugs and/or alcohol use/abuse
- Mental health concerns
- Pedophilia




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Does Treatment Work?




My 16 year old son has been exposing exposed himself to his younger sisters. About a year ago he asked a younger girl to put her mouth on his penis. She didn't do this, but thankfully she went and told someone about it. He has been seeing a counselor since the first episode. What can be going on with him? Can anything cure him? I feel like his life is about to be ruined.



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What Should I Look for in a Therapist?

- Trauma-informed
- Specialized in youth's sexual behavior problems
- Developmentally-appropriate
- Family involvement
- Not shame or punishment-based
- Helps with ongoing safety




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Family Engagement




My middle daughter, 14, started therapy after getting caught touching my sister's toddler, over time. Just the other day I caught her as she was trying to get another child alone during our BBQ. I only walked away for two seconds. Nothing happened, but it doesn't feel like counseling is working, and I'm worried. What should I be doing right now to be supportive, while also being real about my daughter's risk? How will I know if she's getting "better"?




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Worries Get in the Way




I just walked in on my 16 year-old making my youngest put his mouth on her genitals. I know that something needs to happen and I know this is serious, but if I reach out for help, both my kids will get taken away... or my older daughter, she'll get sent to jail! What should I do? I feel like I'm in an impossible situation! I'm so scared right now!



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Parental Barriers to Seeking Help



The therapist will contact CPS and my kids will be taken

My child won't be charged and not in jail


They'll be on the registry

They'll be blamed and stigmatized

I'm so ashamed... this is all my fault


It's impossible to me as a kid... I just don't know how to deal

Consenting is too expensive, too far




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I Can't Look at Him Right Now



My niece (6) told her mom and me that my oldest son (17) sexually abused her. I was shocked! I'm still shaking with anger as I type this. How could he do such a thing? I feel so disgusted and ashamed. I can't even look at him right now, and honestly, I don't know how I can approach this rationally.



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What Are My Next Steps?




A friend of mine who is the mother of a 4 year old girl told me her daughter reported being molested by my teenage boy, he's 14 years old. I need help to handle the situation in the most appropriate way with my son. What do I do next?



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Steps in Safety: Safety Planning


- In the home
 - Re-establishing rules, boundaries, limits
 - Defining acceptable behaviors, expectations and consequences
 - Assessment of safety in home
- Communicate: next plans, in partnership
 - Talking to youth who sexually abused
 - With family and community



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Reporting

- Mandated reporting
- Parents making report to CPS
 - Talk about incident
 - Share family's safety plan
 - Share whether therapist is involved




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I'm Watching Child Pornography




I'm almost 16 and female, and I've been looking for 'jailbait' photos online. I get curious sometimes and I've seen child porn. It scared me and I usually close the page immediately, but I always go back. I need help! I'm panicking and I'm shaky and I don't know what to do.



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Helping Youth Access Support

- Discussing behaviors and potential consequences
- How they can talk with parents/guardian about getting therapy
- Safety planning
- Healthy sexual development resources




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Questions?



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Stay tuned for our next webinar!

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