

Behaviors to Watch Out for When Adults Are with Children

Instructions: Use this checklist if you are uncomfortable about the way someone is playing with a child. In asking the questions below, you are assessing for yourself whether or not the person in question has inappropriate interactions with children related to boundaries, emotions, or sexual conversations and behavior. Do you know someone who...

1	Refuses to let a child set his or her own boundaries/limits, or uses teasing or belittling language when a child attempts to set a limit?	Yes	No
2	Insists on hugging, touching, kissing, tickling, wrestling with, or holding a child even when the child does not want this?	Yes	No
3	Frequently walks in on children or teens in the bathroom?	Yes	No
4	Manages to get time alone or insists on time alone with a child with no interruptions?	Yes	No
5	Spends most of his/her spare time with children and has little interest in spending time with people his/her own age?	Yes	No
6	Turns to a child for emotional or physical comfort by sharing personal or private information or activities normally shared with adults?	Yes	No
7	Has secret interactions with teens or children (e.g., games, sharing drugs, alcohol, or sexual material) or spends excessive time emailing, text messaging, or calling children or youth?	Yes	No
8	Regularly offers to babysit many different children for free or takes children on overnight outings alone; seems “too good to be true”?	Yes	No
9	Buys children expensive gifts or gives them money for no apparent reason?	Yes	No
10	Allows children or teens to consistently get away with inappropriate behaviors?	Yes	No
11	Encourages silence and secrets in a child?	Yes	No
12	Masturbates a lot or takes breaks from other activities to go masturbate?	Yes	No
13	Talks repeatedly about the sexual activities of children or teens?	Yes	No
14	Talks about sexual fantasies with children?	Yes	No
15	Is overly interested in the sexuality of a particular child or teen, talking repeatedly about the child’s developing body or interfering with normal teen dating?	Yes	No
16	Looks at child pornography?	Yes	No
17	Asks an adult partner to dress or act like a child or teen during sexual activity?	Yes	No
18	Often has a “special” child friend, perhaps a different one from year-to-year?	Yes	No
19	Makes fun of a child’s body parts and uses sexual names such as “stud,” “whore,” or “slut”?	Yes	No

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, talk to the person directly, or talk with an administrator, other family member, or professional. If you are uncomfortable with the individual, but don’t see these signs, trust your instincts and ask questions anyway.

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