



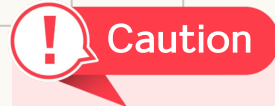
# Correct understanding and coping methods for sexual behavior in infants and toddlers

Thanks to the advancement of the internet and media, infants and toddlers are more easily and quickly exposed to content related to sex than ever before. While sexuality in infants and toddlers is a natural part of a child's development, parents may be surprised or confused, thinking, "My child already?" How parents respond and support these situations can help prevent sexual behavior in infants and toddlers from developing into problems and help them develop sound sexual concepts, leading to healthy growth. Excessive education is not helpful, so please refer to the information below to help infants and toddlers naturally resolve their curiosity and interest when they show it in everyday life.

## Infant and toddlers

### Sexual Development & Sexual Behavior Characteristics

- "Infancy is a time for exploring the body and developing the basic concepts of sexuality"
- "They make fun of exposing their genitals and body"
- "They also have an instinct to peek into other people's bodies"
- "The genitals may itch and they may scratch them"
- "Stimulating their erogenous zones can also bring them satisfaction"
- "They're becoming more and more curious about genitals"



- Because it is different from the sexual behavior of adults, it must be viewed from the eye level of infants and toddlers, and dealt with naturally and comfortably through everyday conversation and an open attitude.
- Overreacting will only provoke them further, causing them to hide and feel inappropriate and confusing emotions, such as guilt.

## Infant and toddlers

### Sexual behavior by age



#### 0-1 year old

- Explore the sensory feelings of their body by chance.
- Responds to sensory sensation when changing diapers or washing and wiping the body



#### 2-3 years old

- Shows curiosity about the naked appearance of family members or peers
- They also walk around naked
- They also watch and touch their genitals.



#### 4-5 years old

- Trying to take off their friend's clothes while role-playing
- They may experience behavior such as peeping into the bathroom
- They also watch and touch their genitals.

## Infant and toddlers

### Supporting situation by situation

"When touching their body and accidentally touch their genitals"

- ▶ Helps develop interest in interesting play

"They may start touching their genitals after having younger sibling."

- ▶ We need your attention. Address the source of your anxiety and find alternative. Take time to play together

"Friends were surprised when they showed their body."

- ▶ Instead of commenting on the behavior, if it's not causing harm, listen with interest to see what your child wants to talk about.

"Taking off friend's clothes while role-playing.."

- ▶ Tell them the rules of the games and help them express various roles

"They took a peek because they thought men and women were different."

- ▶ Relieve curiosity and interest with age-appropriate sex education.

"When they're bored or don't want to take a nap, they play their genitals"

- ▶ Help them have fun together or sleep comfortably

※ Source : Busan Metropolitan City Childcare Support Center - Daycare Center Parent Counseling Guide on Infant and toddlers Sexual Behavior



We all have bubbles? Part 1



We all have bubbles? Part 2



www.nowdaysparenting  
(Sexual violence prevention education for guardians of young children)