

# Childhood development and sexual behavior



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Childhood Development and Sexual Behavior Frank Sehi PSY/265 January

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Sexual behavior begins to develop as early as the " Infancy (0 to 2 Years)

stage" (Rathus, Nevid, & Fichner-Rathus, " CHAPTER 13 ? Sexuality in

Childhood and Adolescence," 2011). Male fetuses have erections while in the

mother's womb, and both male and female fetus suck on their fingers, which

gives pleasure in the mouth (Rathus, Nevid, & Fichner-Rathus, " CHAPTER 13

? Sexuality in Childhood and Adolescence," 2011).

Between 6 months to 12 months a child may begin to masturbate, such as

male boys may run up against something or play with their genitals (Rathus,

Nevid, & Fichner-Rathus, " CHAPTER 13 ? Sexuality in Childhood and

Adolescence," 2011). From 3 to 8 years old children begin to show curiosity

some when it comes to sexual development behavior, just because they begin

to notice the difference in boy and girl genitals (Rathus, Nevid, & Fichner-

Rathus, " CHAPTER 13 ? Sexuality in Childhood and Adolescence," 2011).

This stage they may play house, doctor, or even with doll to play out their

sexual behavior, and in most cases it is innocent behavior (Rathus, Nevid, &

Fichner-Rathus, " CHAPTER 13 ? Sexuality in Childhood and Adolescence,"

2011). Children may play out same sex sexuality, but has no effect on sexual

preference at this age (Rathus, Nevid, & Fichner-Rathus, " CHAPTER 13 ?

Sexuality in Childhood and Adolescence," 2011). During the Preadolescent

stage is when a child really discovers masturbation; they discover how to

pleasure themselves and the feel of the sensation.

Also at this stage Preadolescents may experience same sex behavior as way

of exploring their sexuality, but in most cases a short phases (Rathus, Nevid,

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& Fichner-Rathus, " CHAPTER 13 ? Sexuality in Childhood and Adolescence," 2011). The adolescent stage happens right after puberty, this stage is masturbation is the big part sexual pleasure. Adolescents for most part will masturbate, and still can keep their virginity and avoid pregnancy (Rathus, Nevid, & Fichner-Rathus, " CHAPTER 13 ?

Sexuality in Childhood and Adolescence," 2011). During adolescents a few have experienced same sex sexual experiences among g their peers, and in most cases it's just during the transition period from adolescent to adult sexual behavior (Rathus, Nevid, & Fichner-Rathus, " CHAPTER 13 ? Sexuality in Childhood and Adolescence," 2011). Adolescents who are gay or lesbian tend to struggle more during this stage, than those who are heterosexual, because of judgment of peers (Rathus, Nevid, & Fichner-Rathus, " CHAPTER 13 ?

Sexuality in Childhood and Adolescence," 2011) In conclusion Sexual development begins from the fetus to adolescent stage, and most of the child's sexual behavior is more of discovering one's self. The adolescent stage is where one discovers more on what they like sexual wise, and usually orientation as well. References: Rathus, S. A. , Nevid, J. S. , & Fichner-Rathus, I. (2011). Human Sexuality in a World of Diversity (8th ed. ). Retrieved from The University of Phoenix.