

## Dynamics of Psychological Conditioning:

- Child rewarded for sexual behavior inappropriate to development level
- Offender exchanges attention and affection for sex
- Sexual parts of child fetishized
- Offender transmits misconceptions about sexual behavior and morality
- Conditioning of sexual arousal and behavior with pain, negative emotions, and memories

## Psychological Impact:

- Increased salience of sexual issues: preoccupation and precociousness
- Confusion about sexual identity: sexuality over-emphasized
- Confusion about sexual norms: sex = love, care-getting, care-giving
- Negative associations; aversion to sex
- Over-inhibition or excessive expression of sex drive
- Impaired trust
- Victimizing others
- Despair, hopelessness, inadequacy, ineffectiveness
- Belief that one is damaged
- Intense anger

## Behavioral Manifestations:

- Compulsive and/or aggressive sexual behavior, sexualized behavior
- Sexual dysfunctions
- Over-inhibition or excessive expression of anger, animal abuse
- Fear, anxiety, phobias
- Depression, Withdrawal, Self-mutilation, Suicide gestures/attempts
- Eating disorders, Sleep disorders, Somatic complaints
- Drug and alcohol abuse, running away, delinquent behavior
- School difficulties, learning disabilities

## Sexual Behavior Warning Signs

1. Excessive focus
2. Compulsive interest
3. Age difference > 3 years
4. Boundary violations with strangers
5. Bribes, coerces, forces sexual behavior
6. Distorted ideas about the rights of others
7. Manipulates others into sexual touching
8. Other children repeatedly complain
9. Continues behavior after told no
10. Appears anxious, tense, angry, fearful in response to sex
11. Disturbed toileting behaviors
12. Drawings depict predominant genitalia
13. Manual, oral, genital contact with animals
14. Painful and/or continuous erections or vaginal discharge

## Sexualized Behavior Categories (Cavanaugh-Johnson Typology)

Normal Childhood Exploration - Sexual behaviors are age-appropriate and within normal limits; limited in type and frequency (exploration, curiosity, playing doctor – same-aged, non-coercive). May result in embarrassment, but not deep feelings of anger, shame, fear, or anxiety

Sexually Reactive - Sexual behavior is reactive and non-invasive (intensified masturbation, precocious sexual interest, humping – same-aged, non-coercive). Results from excessive exposure or stimulation; some shame, guilt, or confusion present

Extensive Mutual Sexual Behaviors – Progression in sexual acting-out; oral sex, vaginal and anal intercourse without apparent guilt, shame or confusion; sexuality normal part of life with no offenders or victims. Usually same-aged children who have abuse history, and no deviant arousal

Child Perpetrators – Sexually aggressive and coercive; thoughts, fantasies, actions pervaded with sexuality; secretive & manipulative; when told to stop they will not and cannot without professional help; impulsive compulsive, aggressive, with strong emotions of anger, hostility, rage; coerce, fool, bribe, threaten, force others into sexual acts