


A Continuum of Behaviours	Hackett (2010) has proposed a continuum model to demonstrate the range of sexual behaviours presented by children and young people from those that are normal, to those that are highly deviant:				
<p>It is vital for professionals to distinguish normal from abnormal sexual behaviours. Chaffin et al (2002. P208) suggest a child's sexual behaviour should be considered abnormal if it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occurs at a frequency greater than would be developmentally expected • Interferes with the child's development • Occurs with coercion, intimidation, or force • Is associated with emotional distress • Occurs between children of divergent ages or developmental abilities • Repeatedly recurs in secrecy after intervention by care givers 	<p style="text-align: center;">Normal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developmentally expected • Socially acceptable • Consensual, mutual, reciprocal • Shared decision making 	<p style="text-align: center;">Inappropriate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single instances of inappropriate sexual behaviour • Socially acceptable behaviour within peer group • Context for behaviour may be inappropriate • Generally consensual and reciprocal 	<p style="text-align: center;">Problematic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problematic and concerning behaviour • Developmentally unusual and socially unexpected • No overt elements of victimisation • Consent issues may be unclear • May lack reciprocity or equal power • May include levels of compulsivity 	<p style="text-align: center;">Abusive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victimising intent or outcome • Includes misuse of power • Coercion and force to ensure victim compliance • Intrusive • Informed consent lacking, or not able to be freely given by victim • May include elements of expressive violence 	<p style="text-align: center;">Violent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physically violent sexual abuse • Highly intrusive • Instrumental violence which is physiologically and / or sexually arousing to the perpetrator • Sadism

A continuum of TA-HSB based on the findings from the literature review, NSPCC research and practice experience.

TA - HSB is harmful for the child / young person and may directly or indirectly harm another person					The TA – HSB is likely to directly harm another person	
Developmentally inappropriate use of adult pornography (DIP) Harmful to self	Showing another young person developmentally inappropriate pornography	Sexting	Possessing, making and distributing Indecent images of children (IIOC)	Technology assisted sexual grooming	Sexual harassment and sexual solicitation	Sexual abuse of children online
<p>Intentional use of mainstream, legal pornography which is likely to be harmful for the child / young person given their age or developmental needs. This would be so for any child using pornography under the age of 13 or any child / young person who has come obsessed / preoccupied with the use of pornography</p> <p>It also encompasses the use of extreme / illegal pornography (excluding IIOC as these have been classified separately) including bestiality, fetishism and violence</p>	<p>The child / young person has intentionally exposed another child / young person to pornography which is inappropriate for their age or developmental stage, or would be classed as illegal / extreme pornography.</p> <p>This does not include the sharing of self-generated sexual imagery.</p> <p>This behaviour may form part of general grooming behaviours.</p>	<p>The sending and / or receiving of self-generated sexually explicit electronic written messages (through email, text, social media etc.) and / or the sending and possession of self-generated nude / sexual photographs taken by a child or young person (including the forwarding of self-taken images of other children / young people).</p> <p>Some of these images may have been incited or coerced</p>	<p>This includes the self-generation of an IIOC through a 'sext' and also the making of an original child abuse image or indecent image of a child.</p> <p>It also includes the searching for IIOC and trading / distributing IIOC with others, and inciting others to make child abuse images</p>	<p>Online / electronic contact between the child / young person and another child / young person for the purpose of preparing them for sexual activity. This may or may not involve the use of threats, coercion or blackmail. This includes potential grooming in cases where there was electronic contact between the child / young person and their victim prior to their perpetration of another form of HSB.</p> <p>This may be to facilitate online sexual contact, offline sexual contact and / or to gain a sexual image</p>	<p>Engaging or attempting to engage children and young people in discussions around sex.</p> <p>It may also include attempts to incite online and / or offline sexual activity with another child / young person through the sending of electronic messages</p>	<p>Engaging or attempting to engage a child to perform sexual acts on themselves and / or others online.</p> <p>These images may then be used to threaten, coerce, silence and blackmail the victim(s)</p>
Other forms of TA – HSB	May include the writing of sexually explicit stories which are inappropriate for the child / young person's developmental stage and / or have been shared using technology. May include other developmentally inappropriate behaviours such as phoning adult sex lines, which may be harmful to self, rather than others					