

# Clinical Definition of Child Sexual Abuse

“The sexual acts that will be described in this section are abusive clinically when the factors discussed in the previous section are present as the examples illustrate. The sexual acts will be listed in order of severity and intrusiveness, the least severe, and intrusive being discussed first.

## Non-contact Acts

- Offender making sexual comments to the child
  - Example: A coach told a team member he had a fine body, and they should find a time to explore one another's bodies. He told the boy he has done this with other team members, and they had enjoyed it.
- Offender exposing intimate parts to the child, sometimes accompanied by masturbation.
  - Example: A grandfather required that his 6-year-old granddaughter kneel in front of him and watch while he masturbated naked.
- Voyeurism (peeping).
  - Example: A stepfather made a hole in the bathroom wall. He watched his stepdaughter when she was toileting (and instructed her to watch him).
- Offender showing child pornographic materials, such as pictures, books, or movies.
  - Example: Mother and father had their 6- and 8-year-old daughters accompany them to viewings of adult pornographic movies at a neighbor's house.
- Offender induces child to undress and/or masturbate self.
  - Example: Neighbor paid a 13-year-old emotionally disturbed girl \$5 to undress and parade naked in front of him.

# Clinical Definition of Child Sexual Abuse (cont'd)

## Sexual Contact

- Offender touching the child's intimate parts (genitals, buttocks, breasts).
  - Example: A father put his hand in his 4-year-old daughter's panties and fondled her vagina while the two of them watched "Sesame Street."
- Offender inducing the child to touch his/her intimate parts.
  - Example: A mother encouraged her 10-year-old son to fondle her breasts while they were in bed together.
- Frottage (rubbing genitals against the victim's body or clothing).
  - Example: A father, lying in bed, had his clothed daughter sit on him and play "ride the horse."

## Digital or Object Penetration

- Offender placing finger(s) in child's vagina or anus.
  - Example: A father used digital penetration with his daughter to "teach" her about sex.
- Offender inducing child to place finger(s) in offender's vagina or anus.
  - Example: An adolescent boy required a 10-year-old boy to put Vaseline on his finger and insert it into the adolescent's anus as initiation into a club.
- Offender placing instrument in child's vagina or anus.
  - Example: A psychotic mother placed a candle in her daughter's vagina.
- Offender inducing child to place instrument in offender's vagina or anus.

# Clinical Definition of Child Sexual Abuse (cont'd)

- Example: A babysitter had a 6-year-old boy penetrate her vaginally with a mop handle.

## Oral Sex

- Tongue kissing

- Example: Several children who had attended the same day care center attempted to French kiss with their parents. They said that Miss Sally taught them to do this.

- Breast sucking, kissing, licking, biting.

- Example: A mother required her 6-year-old daughter to suck her breasts (in the course of mutual genital fondling).

- Cunnilingus (licking, kissing, sucking, biting the vagina or placing the tongue in the vaginal opening).

- Example: A father's girlfriend who was high on cocaine made the father's son lick her vagina as she sat on the toilet.

- Fellatio (licking, kissing, sucking, biting the penis).

- Example: An adolescent, who had been reading pornography, told his 7-year-old cousin to close her eyes and open her mouth. She did and he put his penis in her mouth.

- Anilingus (licking, kissing the anal opening).

- Example: A mother overheard her son and a friend referring to their camp counselor as a "butt lick." The boys affirmed that the counselor had licked the anuses of two of their friends (and engaged in other sexual acts with them). An investigation substantiated this account.

# Clinical Definition of Child Sexual Abuse (cont'd)

## Penile Penetration

- Vaginal intercourse
  - Example: A 7-year-old girl was placed in foster care by her father because she was incorrigible. She was observed numerous times "humping" her stuffed animals. In therapy she revealed that her father "humped" her. There was medical evidence of vaginal penetration.
- Anal intercourse
  - Example: Upon medical exam an 8-year-old boy was found to have evidence of chronic anal penetration. He reported that his father "put his dingdong in there" and allowed two of his friends to do likewise.
- Intercourse with animals."



Source: *Faller. (1993). Child sexual abuse: Intervention and treatment issues. User manual series. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect.*