



CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE - Things to consider

Child Developmental Needs:

- Whether understanding of sex and healthy relationships is developmentally appropriate, including the meaning of informed consent
- Level of self-esteem and understanding of abusive / harmful ideas about relationships and gender
- Access to a trauma-informed educational provision that actively promotes healthy peer relationships
- Living in a physically and emotionally safe home

Parenting Capacity:

- Secure attachments that prioritise the well-being and safety of the child
- Consistent boundaries / guidance around online material – incl. access to pornography, child sexual abuse material, or harmful ideas about relationships and gender
- Appropriate interest and guidance on healthy peer relationships
- Able to meet basic needs and provide an emotionally warm and supportive response
- Seeks support and advice from trusted people / professionals
- Parents treat the child in a way that is appropriate for their age and can recognise healthy adolescent growth/development

Family and Environmental Factors:

- Level of stability and safety in the family unit which prioritises the child(ren)'s emotional needs and physical safety
- Access to safe community resources that promote healthy relationships
- A network of peer relationships that are equitable, healthy, and non-abusive
- Access to an educational provision that responds robustly to abusive/harmful peer relationships.
- Trusted adults do not adultify the child and can recognise/respond to sexual abuse/harm whilst promoting healthy adolescent growth/development

Things that can help:

- Supportive family relationships
- Effective parental supervision
- Access to sex/healthy relationship education throughout childhood
- Positive peer relationships and a network of trusted adults – remove duplication with points in domains
- Access to support services
- Collaborative, realistic, and meaningful safety planning
- Reporting of concerns about child sexual abuse / harmful sexual behaviour through appropriate channels
- Consideration of additional vulnerabilities

USEFUL RESOURCES:

[SSCP website resources](#)

[The Bridge - Sexual Abuse Referral Centre \(SARC\)](#)

[CSA Centre of Expertise](#)