

Family Advocacy Program Services

Prevention and response to PSB-CY expands FAP's role by strengthening support for the safety and resilience of children, youth and military Families while maintaining its core mission. It is important to note that the response protocol for PSB-CY differs from FAP's approach to addressing child abuse and domestic abuse.

The majority of children and youth who exhibit concerning sexual behaviors respond positively to informed parental engagement, guidance and supervision, and evidence-based interventions. In most cases, these interventions prevent further incidents.

The Family Advocacy Program provides or connects children and Families to:

- Education for parents about what sexual behaviors are developmentally appropriate.
- Child-focused advocacy and support for parents.
- Safety and supervision planning.
- Clinical assessments, counseling and support.
- Case management.



Resources

Sexual Development in Children — Resources for Military Families

www.militaryonesource.mil/parenting/children-youth-teens/sexual-behavior-in-children-and-youth-toolkit/

National Children's Alliance

www.nationalchildrensalliance.org/mental-health-resources-for-cacs-caregivers-and-brokers/

National Center on the Sexual Behavior of Youth

www.ncsby.org

The National Child Traumatic Stress Network

www.nctsn.org/resources/understanding-and-coping-sexual-behavior-problems-children-information-parents-and

OneOp

<https://oneop.org>

Quality of Life programs

www.armyresilience.army.mil/qualityoflife/index.html

Family Advocacy Program

www.armyresilience.army.mil/FAP/index.html



Problematic Sexual Behavior in Children and Youth

Ages 5–9



What Is Problematic Sexual Behavior in Children and Youth?

PSB-CY refers to behavior in children under age 18 that involves sexual body parts (genitals, anus, buttocks or breasts) and is inappropriate for the child's age, or potentially harmful to the individual initiating the behaviors, the individual impacted by the behaviors or others.

Types of Sexual Behaviors in Children and Youth

Normative sexual behaviors (common) are considered standard for their age, occur infrequently and are easily stopped because the child is responsive to redirection.

- Occasionally touches self and masturbates in private.
- Has erections.
- Plays games with peers related to sex/sexuality ("Show me yours. I'll show you mine").
- Plays doctor or nurse by inspecting body parts of others.

Cautionary sexual behaviors (less common) are disruptive to others, and the child or youth is moderately responsive to distraction and redirection.

- Masturbates, touches/rubs or exposes genitals in public.
- Touches other children's (or animal's) genitalia, breasts or buttocks when clothed or unclothed.
- Occasionally looks at others' genitalia, breasts or buttocks; shows or rubs their own genitalia, breasts or buttocks against others, after adult redirection; and acts in ways that go beyond what is expected for their age.
- Wants to play games related to sex with children more than two years younger or older in chronological or developmental age.

Problematic sexual behaviors (uncommon) are frequently disruptive, persist after distraction and redirection and may be met with anger. A child or youth exhibiting these behaviors may cause harm to themselves or others.

- Engages in masturbation that includes vaginal or anal penetration and/or with the use of objects.
- Repeatedly looks at others' genitalia, breasts or buttocks; shows or rubs their own genitalia, breasts or buttocks against others, after adult redirection; and acts in ways that go beyond what is expected for their age.
- Engages in oral, anal or vaginal penetration with another child.
- Engages in sexual exploratory behaviors with another child who is more than two years younger or older in chronological or developmental age.
- Imitates sexual behavior (simulates sexual acts with dolls, peers or animals).
- Engages in sexual play or masturbation with an object that involves anal or vaginal penetration.



FAP PROCESS FOR PSB-CY

- Sexual behavior is reported to the Family Advocacy Program.
- FAP or the referral agency completes an evidence-based screening to determine if a Multidisciplinary Team is warranted.
- If the behavior is problematic, FAP activates the MDT to address safety and develop a course of action while offering intervention and supportive services for all children and youth involved and their Families.
- FAP services are offered to the parents and caregivers. If accepted, FAP conducts a trauma-focused assessment and engages with the parents/caregivers to connect the children/youth and parents/caregivers involved with the appropriate services.
- FAP clinicians providing care for those affected by PSB, if applicable, may provide updates on the status of interventions and additional relevant information to members of the MDT.

Your FAP representative and MDT are committed to supporting children and youth impacted by or exhibiting PSB-CY.



Family Advocacy Program

Parents of children and youth impacted by or exhibiting problematic sexual behavior may experience a range of emotions, such as concern, anger and frustration. These are normal, and the Army Family Advocacy Program offers services and supports parents and children as they navigate the challenges associated with PSB-CY. The Department of Defense designated the Family Advocacy Program to provide services and support for these children, youth and Families.

Support is provided directly by FAP or with referrals to:

- Family Advocacy Program Clinical for assessments, counseling and support.
- Military Treatment Facility, pediatric, Family medicine and behavioral health providers.
- Parental education regarding age-appropriate sexual behaviors.
- Tricare authorized services.
- Child Advocacy Centers.

For children or youth impacted by problematic sexual behavior, additional FAP services include:

- Child-focused advocacy and support for parents throughout the process.
- Crisis-management resources.
- Specialized counseling or treatment services.

For children or youth exhibiting PSB-CY, additional FAP services include:

- Child-focused advocacy and support for parents throughout the process.
- Crisis-management resources.
- Specialized counseling or treatment services.

The DOD mandates FAP services to increase awareness of healthy sexual development in children and youth (Public Law 115-232, Section 1089). Implementation guidance on the Army's response to reports of PSB-CY ensures the safety and well-being of children and youth and addresses the needs of children, youth and their Families affected by PSB-CY.

Information on all reports received by FAP is maintained in the DOD PSB-CY Information System. Access to this system is restricted to authorized users working in or providing oversight to the Family Advocacy Program.