

BETTER TOGETHER

2018 ATSA Conference | Wednesday October 17 | 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM

A-15

Childhood Sexuality and Development Normative Behaviors Versus Concerning or Risk Behaviors

Geraldine Crisci, MSW
Geraldine Crisci and Associates

Using a developmental perspective, the speaker will review normative sexual development (such as we know it) for the prepubescent child, birth to puberty. The speaker will also review what has been learned from the clinical work and research conducted on the assessment and treatment of sexual behaviour problems in prepubescent children.

This developmental lens will be used to identify possible milestones and/or dilemmas which present opportunities for influence. Many factors including culture, environment, socialization, media and quality of caregiving are important to consider.

Learning Goals:

- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to understand the stages of normative sexual behavior birth through puberty utilizing a developmental lens.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to identify concerning or risky behaviors using a developmental perspective.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to accurately describe problematic sexual behavior in prepubescent children.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to identify critical information needed in the assessment of concerning sexual behavior in prepubescent children.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to advise parents who have concerns about their children's sexual behavior.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to provide direction when schools have concerns about children's sexual behavior.

Geraldine Crisci, M.S.W. is a mental health professional with over 30 years experience in the field of trauma. She is a private practitioner who provides assessment and treatment to children, youth and their families. She is also a professional trainer providing educational programs to mental health, protective services, law enforcement, medical and other helping professions. Geraldine has developed and teaches a six-day **Trauma**

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Assessment and Treatment Program which has reached 2500 professionals in the past 12 years.

Geraldine has developed protocols for the assessment and treatment of trauma, **sexualized behaviour** problems and sibling sexual abuse. Geraldine has also developed reunification protocol for families in which sibling sexual abuse has occurred. She has provided support to agencies and families in the successful adoption of children from the Protection system. She has worked extensively with residential *treatment programs* for children and youth for the past 25 years.

Geraldine specializes in addressing the impact of trauma on the behaviour of children and youth. To this end she develops clinical programs to provide children, youth and their families with corrective effective **therapeutic intervention**. Geraldine is a member of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC); a member of the College of Registered Psychotherapists of Ontario and the Ontario Association of Social Workers. She co-authored *Paper Dolls and Paper Airplanes: Therapeutic Exercises for Sexually Traumatized Children*, which is currently in its 19th year of printing.