*All About Sex* fact sheet

Private and Public

**Private parts of the body**

The private body parts of a woman are her breasts, vulva, anus and buttocks. The private body parts of a man are his penis, testes, anus and buttocks. People usually cover their private body parts with their underwear.

No one should touch another person’s body unless the other person wants them to and has said that they can.

Some parts of men’s and women’s bodies that they do not cover with their underwear are their hands, arms, face and feet. These parts of the body are OK for other people to see.

***It can be different in different places***

However, it can be different depending on the different places that people go. For example, some parts of the body are OK for other people to see at the swimming pool. These are different to the parts of the body that are OK for other people to see when someone goes to a restaurant. People usually cover more of their bodies when they go to a restaurant.

**Private and public places**

Usually a person’s bedroom, bathroom or toilet is a private place. No one else should come into a person’s private place unless they say they can. It is the person’s private place.

A public place is where there are other people around. Some public places are the bus, train, in the park, at the movies, in the lounge room and kitchen. These are not a person’s own private place. A person shares these places with other people. People can walk in and out without asking if it is OK.

**Private and public behaviours**

Private body parts can be touched when a person is in a private place. If a person has sexy feelings, they can go to a private place to touch their private body parts. A person can masturbate or have sex in their bedroom if they want to. It is only private if a person is there by themselves or with the person that they are going to have sex with.

If a person is going to have sex or masturbate in their bedroom, they should close their bedroom door and close the curtains. A person can also do sexy talking with another person in a private place like their bedroom if they both want to.

When people are in public places, they can touch the parts of someone elseís body that are not covered with underwear. But they can only do this if the other person has said that they can. A person can hold hands with a close girlfriend or boyfriend in public places, like the movies, if they both want to.

A personís body belongs to them. It is not OK for someone to touch another personís body unless they say they can.

**What you need to know:**

* Your body belongs to you. It is not OK for someone to touch any part of your body unless you say they can
* It is not OK for you to touch another personís body unless they say you can
* Your private body parts are the body parts you cover with underwear
* Some public places are the bus, train, in the park, at the movies, in the lounge room and kitchen
* You can hold hands with a close girlfriend or boyfriend in a public place if you both want to
* Usually your bedroom, bathroom or toilet is a private place. No one else should come into your private place unless you say they can. It is your private place
* No one should touch your private body parts unless you want them to and you say they can
* You should not touch another personís private body parts unless they want you to and say you can
* You can only do private things like masturbating and having sex when you are in a private place
* You can also do sexy touching and sexy talking with another person in a private place if both people want to
* When you are doing private things in your private place, like a bedroom, you should close the bedroom door and close the curtains

*All About Sex*

© Family Planning NSW 2013