A Parent’s Guide on Puberty for Boys with Disabilities

A toolkit with information and resources may be downloaded at: vkc.vumc.org/HealthyBodies
Use these pictures to teach the names of body parts. After teaching, you can cover the names of body parts and make a game out of asking your son to name them. You can also cut out the names and have your son physically place them on the picture.

The Tanner Stages (below) can show him how his penis and testicles will change and hair will grow.
To motivate your child to do things that may be hard or unpleasant for him, like exercise, try using a visual support like a First/Then Board. Put the less-preferred activity *first* and the rewarding activity *second*. For example, “First Exercise” followed by “Then Video Games.” You can use pictures or words, depending on your child’s reading skills. You can also laminate these cards and use velcro with pictures or a dry-erase marker to make them reusable.

REMEMBER: Always put the more fun activity in the Then box. This shows your child what he is working to earn.
Appendix

Encouraging Good Hygiene – Showering Schedule Visuals

1. Fill tub with warm water
2. Turn on shower
3. Take off clothes
4. Get in tub
5. Get in shower
6. Wash whole body
7. Rinse soap off
8. Put shampoo on my hand
9. Rub into hair
10. Rinse out shampoo
11. Turn off the water
12. Dry off with towel
13. Put on deodorant
14. Put on clean clothes
15. I did a good job

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What's That Smell?

I am growing up and my body is changing. I am growing hair in my armpits and on my private parts. Sometimes my armpits and private parts may smell bad. This smell is called body odor. People don't like to smell body odor. If I smell bad, people may not want to be around me. I can stop body odor by washing my hair, armpits, private parts and feet every day with warm water and soap. After I wash, I can put deodorant on my armpits. Deodorant will help my underarms smell nice and stay dry. I will use deodorant under my arms every morning to get rid of my body odor. I like to smell nice. Smelling good will make my parents, friends, and teachers happy too.
Appendix

Encouraging Good Hygiene – Brushing Teeth Schedule Visuals

1. **Toothbrush**
   - Image of a toothbrush

2. **Toothpaste**
   - Image of a toothpaste tube

3. **Squeeze toothpaste on toothbrush**
   - Image of toothpaste being squeezed onto a toothbrush

4. **Brush teeth**
   - Image of a child brushing teeth with text: 2 min.

5. **Spit in sink**
   - Image of a child spitting in a sink

6. **Rinse with water**
   - Image of a child rinsing their mouth with water

7. **Floss**
   - Image of dental floss

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You can teach your son about what behaviors are okay for public places and what activities should be kept private using pictures. In the activity below, you can help him sort which activities and places are public versus private. You can use the pictures on the pages to follow or add your own pictures.

Once your son understands what public and private mean, you can use the “public” and “private” pictures as a visual reminder. For example, if he begins picking his nose, hold up the “private” card and tell him to find a private place.

These pictures or visual reminders also can be used to prepare your son for going to a public place, such as an outing to a restaurant.
Hold book in Front  
Pats on the back  
Picking your nose  
Holding hands  
High five  
Hug  
Kiss
Teach your child where he can touch others and where it is okay for others to touch him by using these figures. Point to a body part and say “Can we touch?” If yes, put a green circle on that body part for “go.” If no, put a red circle for “stop.”

For example, your son should put a green circle on the hand but a red circle on the bottom. You can use the same activity and ask “Where can people touch me?”
Picking Your Nose is Private

Sometimes I might pick my nose in private. I will only pick my nose when something is stuck in my nose, and I can’t blow it out with a tissue. Picking my nose can spread germs. I should use a tissue when I pick or blow my nose. I must wash my hands after I touch my nose. People don’t want to see me pick my nose. When I need to pick my nose, I will go to a private place, like inside the bathroom with the door closed. I will not pick my nose in front of other people or talk about picking my nose to other people.
Private Parts

Public places are where other people can see me. Private means away from other people, like in my bedroom or bathroom with the door closed. Everyone has private parts of their body. I can tell what parts of my body are private because I cover them with my underwear. I don’t touch my private parts in public where other people can see me. I don’t ever put my hands inside my pants in public. I can help myself remember not to touch by putting my hands by my side, crossing my arms, or folding my hands. Sometimes I need to touch my private parts, like when I itch or my underwear is uncomfortable. I can ask to go to the bathroom. When I am alone in my bedroom or bathroom, I can touch my private parts.
But It Feels Good!

I don’t touch my private parts in public where other people can see me. When I am alone in my bedroom or bathroom with the door shut, I can touch my private parts. When I touch my private parts, sometimes it feels good. Some people like how it feels when they touch their own private parts. It’s okay to touch my private parts when I am alone. Sometimes touching my private parts can be messy. I will clean my hands and private parts when I am done. I will not talk about touching my private parts with others. If I have questions or if touching hurts, I will ask my _________ (insert doctor or trusted adult’s name.)
To Touch or Not to Touch, That is the Question!

When I am with my friends and family, it’s usually okay to touch them and for them to touch me on the arm, back, shoulders, or hands. These are “Go” areas of the body. For example, I can give high-fives, pat them on the back, or touch them on the arm to get their attention. It’s not okay for me to touch other people on parts of their body covered by underwear, such as their buttocks, breasts, penis, or vagina. It’s not okay for anyone (but my doctor/parent/______) to touch me on parts of my body covered by my underwear either. These are private parts of the body and are “Stop” areas. If someone touches me in my private area, I should say “STOP” or “NO” and tell my Mom, Dad, or teachers. Sometimes my Mom, Dad, _______ (insert name of trusted adult) and my doctor will need to see my private areas to help me stay clean and healthy. If I don’t want them to see my private areas, I can ask them for privacy.

* May need to alter to include caregivers or medical professionals who need to assist with daily living skills or perform needed medical procedures.
Family, Friends, and Others

Using a sorting game to explain relationships can help your child understand what type of behavior is appropriate for different types of relationships. For example, strangers are in the far column, and your child can see that it is okay to wave or shake hands with them. Behaviors that are in the first row are for romantic partners and spouses. Family and friends fall in between. Your family can decide what behaviors should be included in each box. You may want to take pictures of people to illustrate each group.

Practice. Take it with you on outings and use it to help your child understand how to greet someone. For example, get out the chart when your child sees someone they know from school and show them what behaviors are okay to use to say hello.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Married or dating</th>
<th>Family</th>
<th>Friends</th>
<th>Others &amp; strangers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kiss</td>
<td>Hug</td>
<td>High five</td>
<td>Wave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Kiss" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Hug" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="High five" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Wave" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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When I have a wet dream

Sometimes when I wake up in the morning my underwear will be wet. I did not pee in the bed. I had a “wet dream.” This is normal.

I will take off my dirty pajamas and underwear. I will put them in the hamper. My parents will be proud of me for putting my dirty clothes away.

I will wash my private parts with a warm washcloth so I will be clean. Then I will put on clean underwear and pants.

Next I will let my parents know that my sheets are dirty. I can use my words or I can hang a sign on my door.

I can take the dirty sheets off my bed and put them in the hamper. This will help my mom and dad.

Wet dreams are a normal part of becoming a grown-up. I can take care of myself when I have a wet dream.
Growing up

I am growing up. My body is getting taller and bigger.

Tanner Stages of Life

My penis and testicles are growing and changing, too. I will grow hair under my arms and between my legs. This is normal.

Erection

Sometimes when I touch my penis, it will get harder and longer. This is called an erection.

Waiting

Sometimes erections happen when I don’t want them to. I can sit quietly until it goes away or ask to go to the bathroom.

Adult men

Erections are a normal part of growing up. They happen to all men, even my _____ (insert male figure in child’s life).

Private

Erections are private. I should not talk about my penis or erections in public. If I have questions, I can ask _____ (insert name of trusted adult) when we are alone.
Keep track of your son’s mood and behavior using a diary like this one. We have filled out the first line as an example. You can take this diary sheet to your son’s next medical visit and talk about your concerns.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Hours of sleep</th>
<th>Appetite</th>
<th>Behavior</th>
<th>Medications/Supplements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-8-2012</td>
<td>8-10 hrs, up with nightmare 11-4</td>
<td>Skipped breakfast</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
These picture cards show different feelings and facial expressions. You can use these cards to a) label how your son is feeling and b) help him tell you how he feels. For example, if he seems happy, show him the “Happy” card while you label that feeling (“You seem happy today”). He can learn to give you the card to tell you how he feels, too.