

Why teach about public and private?

Recognising differences between public and private is fundamental to learning about sexuality.

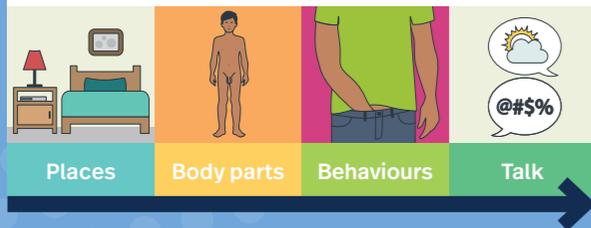
Teaching about public and private is vital because it helps with:

- ✓ teaching other relationship and sexuality concepts
- ✓ building a sense of self
- ✓ understanding social and legal rules.

Scaffold the knowledge

Start with basic examples before adding exceptions to the rules.

Order to teach public and private:



! Private means something you keep to yourself.

Teaching resources

These resources might be useful when talking about public and private.

- Sorting games between **public** and **private**.
- Body outlines.
- Anatomical names for body parts.
- Labelling rooms in the house and at school.
- Allocating time and places for **private behaviours** and **talk**.
- Checklists.

! Using the anatomically correct names for body parts keeps them free from shame and embarrassment. It helps empower and protect people.

Additional resources

- SECCA library
- SECCA workshops
- www.secca.org.au
- www.secca.tribalhabits.com

SECCA

SECCA is a NDIS registered service provider that supports people that live with a disability and their families and carers to provide education and counselling about sexual health, relationships and sexual expression.

SECCA develops free resources that support sexuality and relationship education. Available on the website.

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Teaching Public and Private

A guide to talking about public and private.



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SECCA Ability Relationships Sexuality

1 Places

Public places are where other people are or can be. It is a public place even if there is no one there.

Private places are where someone is alone, doors are closed and windows are shut so no one can see in or hear noises.

Some exceptions to explore:

- Public and private places in a house.
- Public or school toilet versus toilet at home.
- Someone who needs assistance to shower or toilet.
- Sharing a bedroom with a sibling.

! Private places include rooms in a house or where we see professional people, such as a doctor's office.

2 Body parts

Public body parts are parts that are OK for people to see. This depends on cultural context.

Private body parts are those that are covered by clothes plus the mouth.

Some exceptions to explore:

- Swimwear.
- Some people choose to cover more or less of their body.
- Just because you can see a body part does not mean you can touch it.
- Consent is shown and given in many different ways.

! No one is allowed to touch someone else's private body parts unless consent has been given.

3 Behaviours

Public behaviours are those that everyone does in public places.

Private behaviours are those that we do on our own in a private place, such as going to the toilet or masturbating.

Some exceptions to explore:

- Public displays of affection, like cuddling or kissing, in the community.
- Sexual intercourse is a private behaviour that 2 or more people agree to do together and happens in a private place.

! Private behaviours such as touching or showing private body parts must be done in a private place.

4 Talk

Public talk involves talking about public behaviours or things we might expect to hear in public places.

Private talk involves talking about private body parts or behaviours. This talk can sometimes be unexpected.

Some exceptions to explore:

- Talking to a doctor or therapist about private topics.
- Talking about things like periods or masturbation in an appropriate way and being aware of other people's feelings.
- TV, advertising or community discussion of "private topics".

! It is important to think of how other people feel when choosing what we talk about.