Today’s piece was prepared by Kristin Puhl, MS-4, based on a CNN article [How to talk to kids about sexual harassment](https://www.cnn.com/2017/11/29/health/sexual-harassment-talk-to-kids/index.html).

This article addresses discussing sexuality and boundaries with children, a topic parents often find daunting and under-prepared to discuss. Most of the interviewees agree that discussions can begin very early with naming inappropriate versus appropriate behavior—chastising for hitting, for example, can be a segue into talking about autonomy. While the article raises the issue, the suggestions can be vague or seem general; parents may walk away from this CNN piece without a clear sense of how and when to initiate discussions with their children. Additionally, one interviewee describes telling her child to “punch her in the eye” if she ever touches their “personals” without permission. It’s unclear whether this child or other children might follow such instruction or apply with appropriate discrimination or discretion.

Parents may be too uncomfortable to raise this topic with their child’s primary care provider. This article gives suggestions for emphasizing the importance of autonomy, but pediatricians can engage parents in brief teaching on touch and consent in an effort to accurately recognize sexual abuse and harassment, and to build confidence in going to trusted adults.

**RESOURCES ON SEXUAL ASSAULT**[Trauma and Stress](https://www.zerotothree.org/early-development/trauma-and-stress) *Zero to Three resource that highlights the importance of strong caregiver relationships in helping children overcome the aftermath of traumatic events*[Talking to your kids about sexual assault](https://www.rainn.org/articles/talking-your-kids-about-sexual-assault) *RAINN resource*

And that’s today’s Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics: IN THE NEWS!