

Curious or Crossing a Line?

Teacher instructions:

This activity helps students practice telling the difference between questions or comments that show healthy curiosity and those that go too far and cross a line. It gives you a chance to explain why some comments can be hurtful or inappropriate, and to set clear expectations for how students should talk to one another—and themselves—about the changes that come with growing up.

Display the Curious or Crossing a Line hand signals slide. Read scenarios and ask students to respond by showing a thumbs up for “Curious” or a thumbs down for “Crossing a Line.”

You may have a mix of “thumbs up” and “thumbs down” from your students during this activity. What some students might find just being curious, others will find as crossing a line. Explore that dynamic during this activity and point it out to students during the discussion.

Scenarios

- Someone whispers that your friend might be wearing a bra.
- You want to ask a parent why your body smells different.
- Someone laughs and says, “You’re growing a mustache!”
- You talk to a friend about how you’re both getting taller.
- A classmate asks if you’ve started puberty yet.
- Someone points out that your voice sounds lower in front of the whole class.
- You ask your caregiver, “When will I start puberty?”

While discussing these scenarios, weave these points in:

- It’s normal to wonder about how bodies change, but it’s not OK to tease, whisper, or ask personal questions about someone else’s body.
- You can be curious without making someone else uncomfortable.
- If you’re wondering something about puberty, it’s better to ask a trusted adult than a friend or classmate.
- Everyone’s body will change, and a lot of the changes are the same for males and females (e.g., hair growth, growing taller, body odor, sweating more, and body shape changes).

Curious or Crossing a Line?

Hand Signals



Curious



Crossing
a Line