

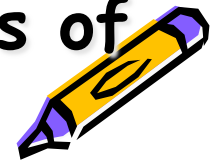


Children with
Sexual Behavior
Problems:
Conceptualization
& Treatment

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Sexual Development

2-6 year olds



- Knowledge

- Boys and girls have different parts
- May know the correct names, but use slang
- Limited information about pregnancy/childbirth

- Behavior

- Not modest
- Uses elimination words with peers
- May explore body differences
- Curiosity about sexual/genital parts
- Touches own parts,
- Pleasure from touching genitals
- Sex play, i.e., doctor



Sexual Development

7-12 year olds



- Knowledge

- Knows correct names but uses slang terms
- Increased knowledge about masturbation, intercourse, and pregnancy
- Understand the physical aspects of puberty by age 10

- Behavior

- Modesty, embarrassment
- Sexual activity more concealed
- Interested in sexual content in media
- Touches own genitals
- Interested in girlfriend/boyfriend relationships



Sexual Behaviors vs. Sexual Behavior Problems



Sexual behaviors:

- involve parts of the body considered to be “private” or “sexual” (e.g., genitals, breasts, buttocks).
- are normally part of growing up for many children.
- are not considered to be harmful by MOST experts.

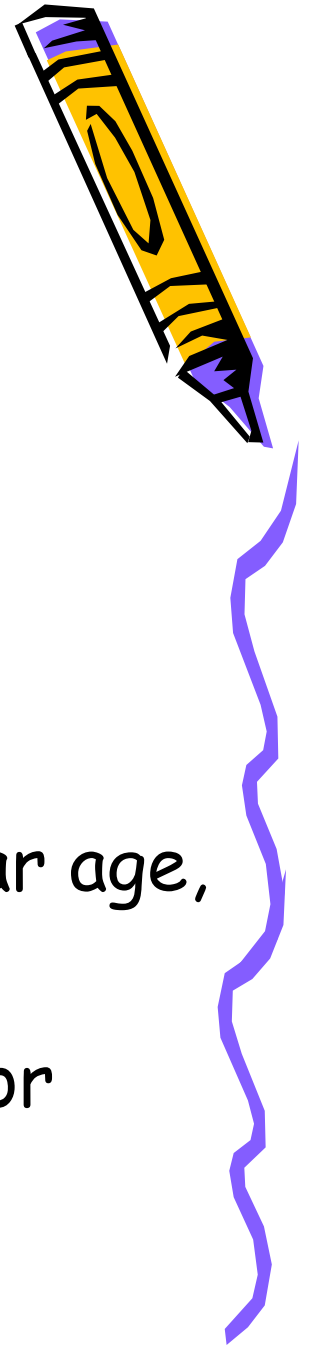


What is Sexual Play?

- Exploratory
- Spontaneous
- Intermittent
- Occurs by mutual agreement
- Occurs between children of similar age, size, and developmental level
- Not accompanied by anger, fear, or strong anxiety



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Use of the term Children with Sexual Behavior Problems:

- Developmentally sensitive
- Focus is on the behavior
- Separates the behavior of children from delinquent or criminal acts of adolescents and adults
- Includes all children with sexual behavior problems, taking into account multiple origins to the behaviors



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Sexual Behavior Problems

General Definition

- Child(ren)-initiated behaviors that involve sexual body parts (i.e., genitals, anus, buttocks, or breasts) in a manner that is developmentally inappropriate and potentially harmful to themselves or others.



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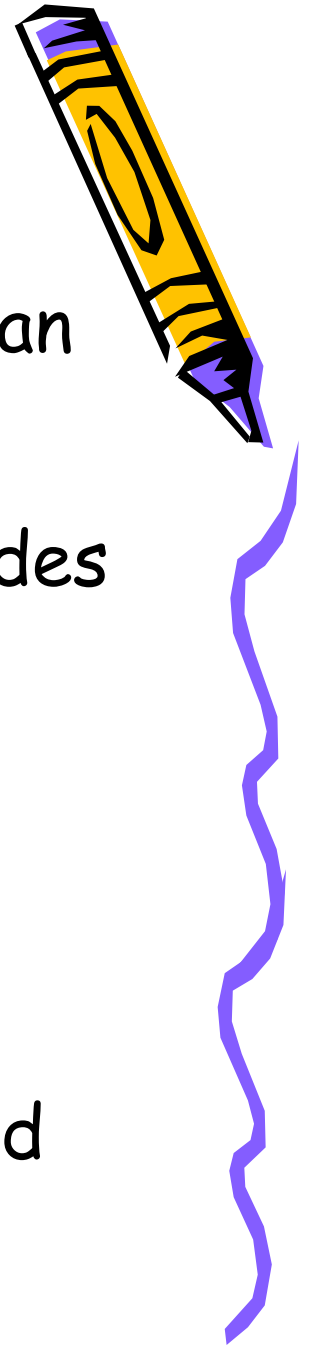


Sexual Behavior Problems

- Greater frequency or duration than developmentally expected.
- Frequency of the behaviors excludes normal childhood activities.
- Behavior does not decrease with typically effective parenting strategies.
- Harmful to the child or other child (ren) involved.

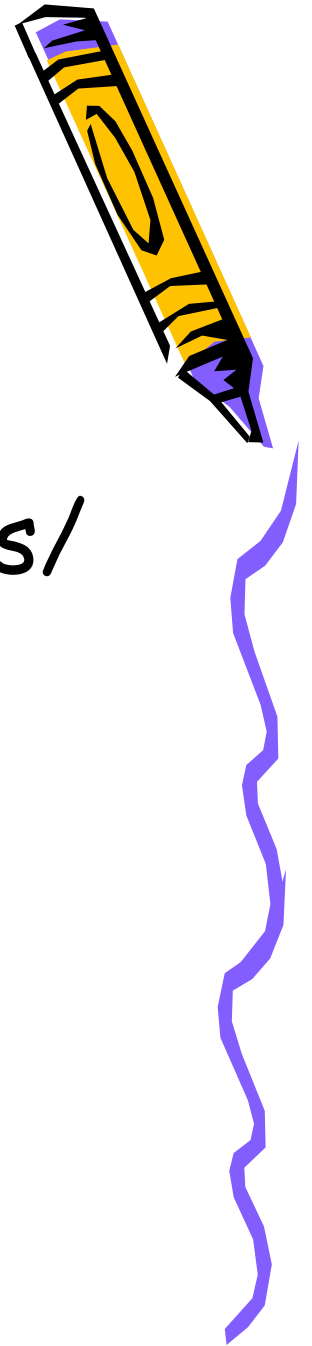


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Sexual Behavior Problems

- Occur between children of significantly different ages/developmental abilities
- Coercive or aggressive
- Elicits fear and anxiety in other children



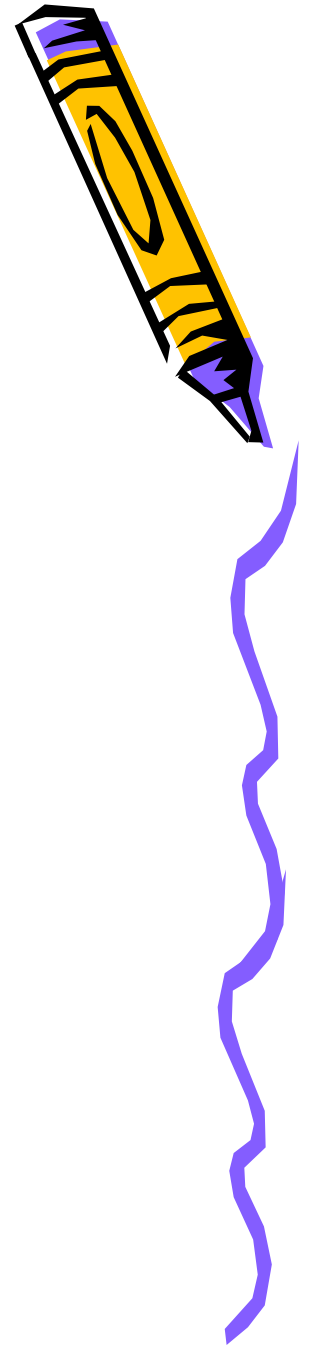
Examples of Sexual Behavior Problems

- A boy touching his penis so much that it causes him to be sore.
- A boy or girl who touches a younger or smaller child's private parts without the child's permission.
- A girl who attempts to "tongue kiss" with a younger or smaller child.
- An 8 year old boy who repeatedly rubs himself on a pillow and makes sexual sounds.



Guidelines for responding to sexual behavior problems

- Calm
- Reminder of rules
- Consequences
- Prevention plan



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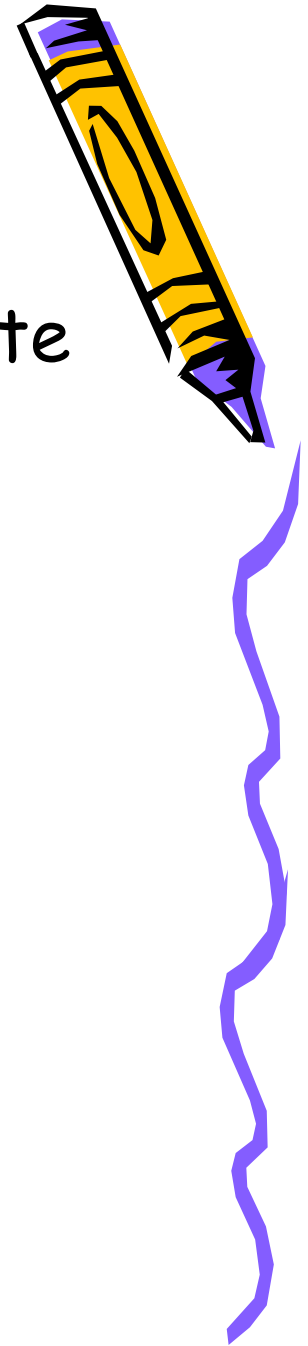
Origins of Sexual Behavior Problems

- Sexual Abuse
- Complex familial, social, developmental, and biological factors
 - Exposure to physical or emotional violence
- Neglect, lack of supervision
- Exposure to sexualized materials
- Family practices around nudity and privacy



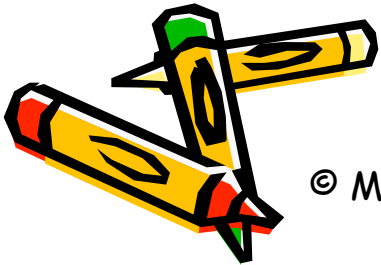
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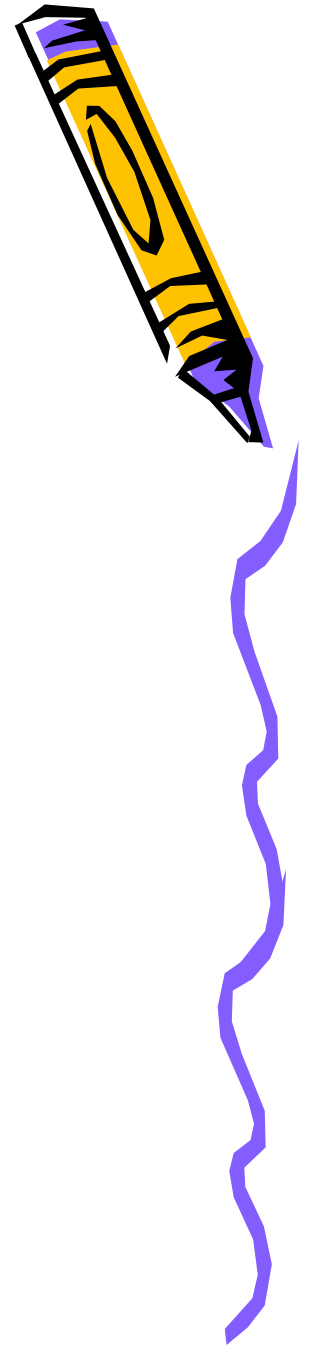
Who are Children with SBP

- No distinctive typology developed to date
- Can be male or female
- Occurs across SES and race
- Impulsivity
- Co-morbid behavior problems



Characteristics of children with SBP

- Other behavior problems
- Internalizing symptoms
- Limited coping
- Social problems
- Parent-child relationship
- Home/community environment

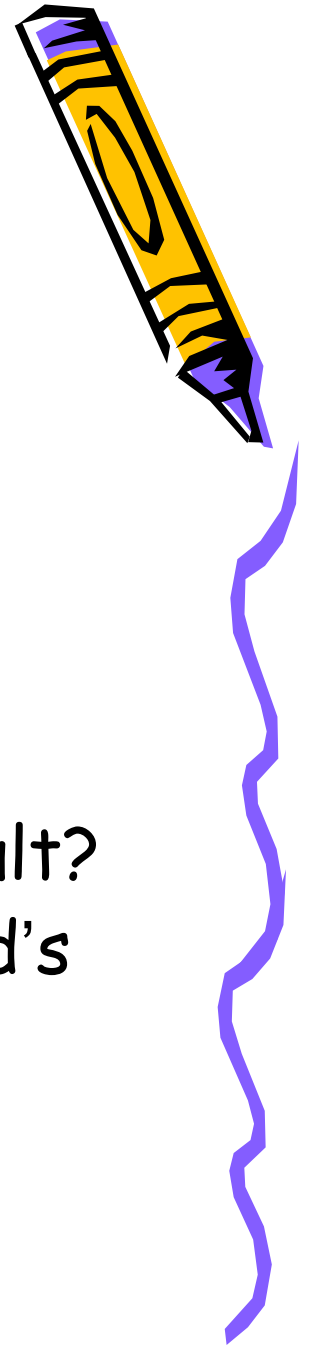


Questions to Ask

- Age and relation of children?
- Type of behavior?
- Response to parental intervention?
- Was any force, intimidation, or coercion used?
- Were any of the children emotionally distressed or physically injured as a result?
- Is the behavior interfering with the child's social development?
- Motivation of child?



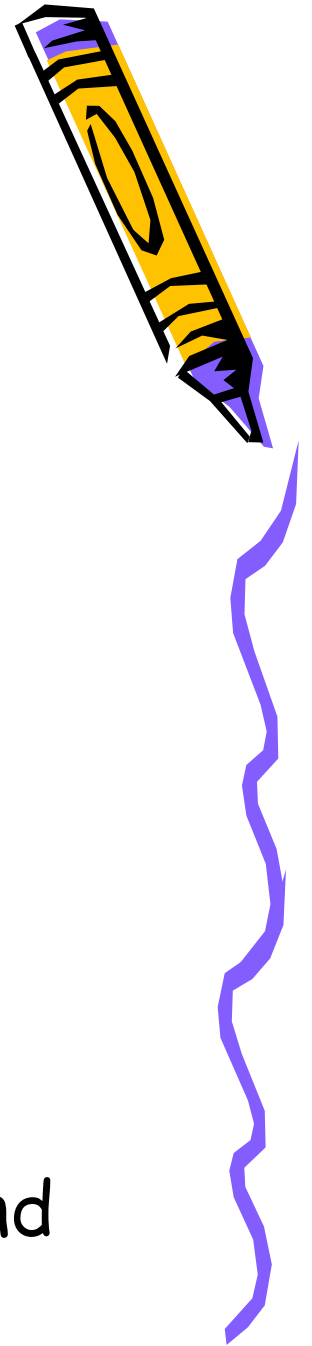
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Important Considerations for Treatment Planning

- History of SBPs
- Trauma experiences and reactions
- Behavior problems
- Learning problems
- Stability of family
- Family environment and support
- Legal involvement, perceived dangerousness of behavior
- Community and school supervision and support

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Basic Philosophy Underlying Treatment of Children with Sexual Behavior Problems

- Not appropriate to automatically apply concepts and treatment of Adult and Adolescent Sexual Offenders
- Sexualized behavior in young children does not reflect a “character defect” or “addictive behavior”
- Change in young children’s behavior requires environmental change
- Children’s self-concept develops from the messages given from their caregivers

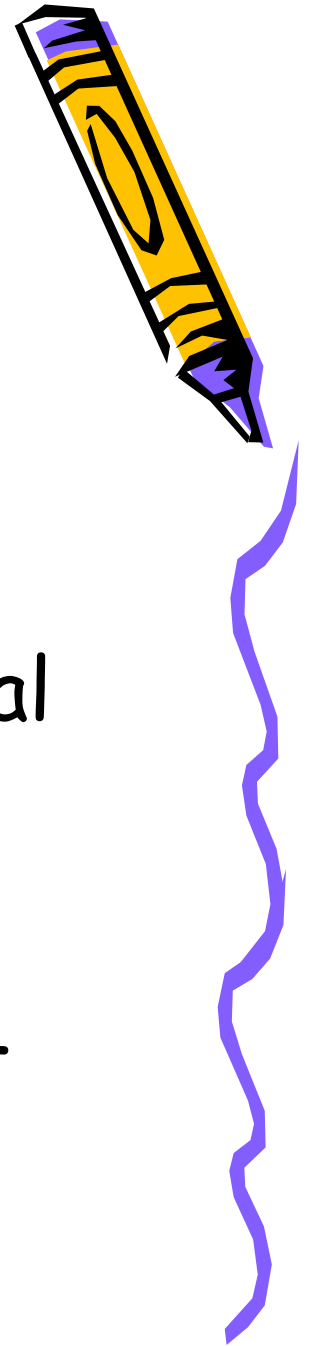


Making Home a Safe Place for Children with Sexual Behavior Problems

- Close SUPERVISION
- Bathe and Sleep Alone
- No Exposure to Sexual Material
- Maintain Adults' Privacy
- Adults Use Modesty
- Communicate Clear Rules about Privacy



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Sexual Behavior Rules

School Age Children

- It is not ok to touch other people's private parts.
- It is not ok to show your private parts to other people.
- It is not ok to look at other people's private parts.
- It is ok to touch your private parts in private.
- It is not ok to make other's feel uncomfortable with your sexual language or behavior.



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Group and/or Individual Treatment Format



Individual Therapy

- Address complex concurrent issues
- Individualized treatment
- Crisis intervention
- Parent's reaction
- Rural areas

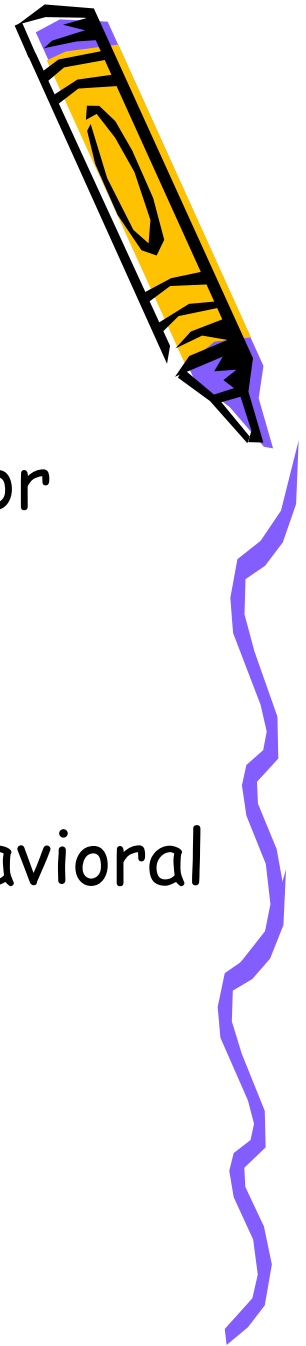
Group Therapy

- Most common format
- Group practice of skills
- Accountability to group
- Support for parents
- Requires behavior control



CSBP Group Treatment Format

- Highly Structured and Interactive
- Directly Addresses Sexual Behavior
- Rule-based Learning Experiences
- Directive Therapists
- Psycho-educational, Cognitive-Behavioral Format
- Practice time with caregivers

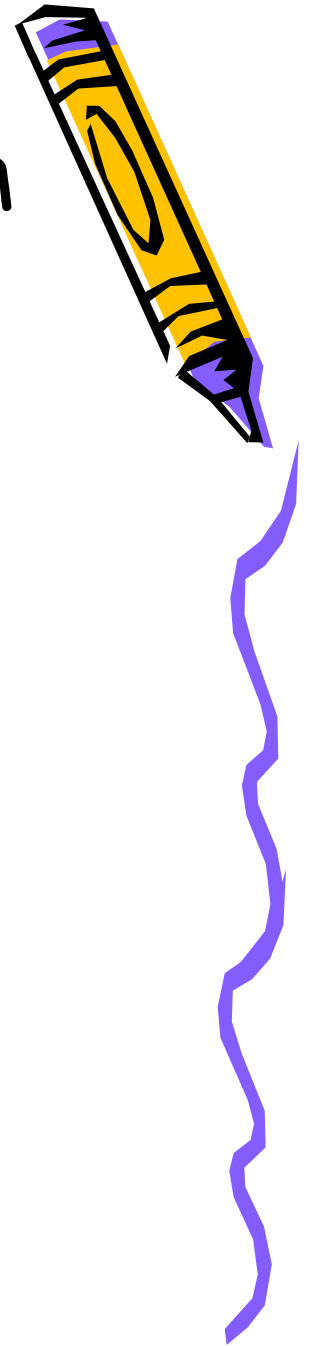


Overview of Treatment Program

- Rules about sexual behavior
- Safety Plan
- Sexual education
- Emotional development
- Impulse Control
- Anxiety Management
- Social Skills

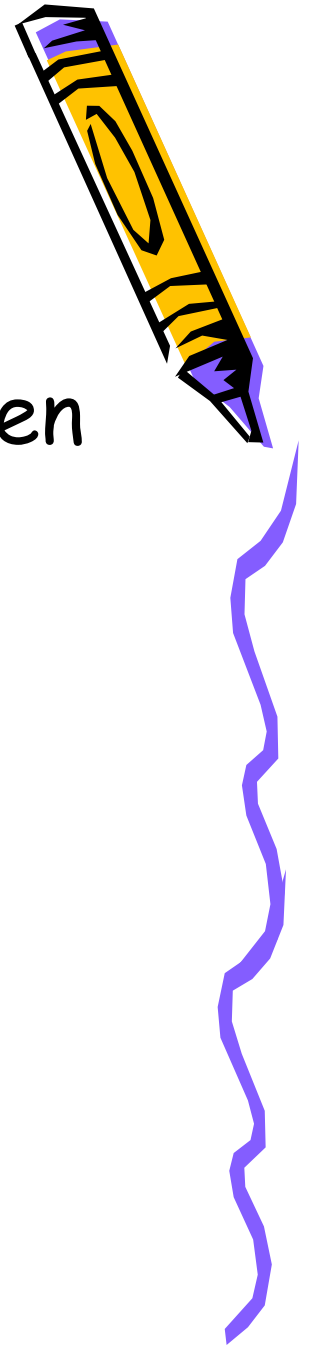


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Conclusions

- Not all sexual behavior in children is problematic.
- Not all sexually abused children have a sexual behavior problem.
- Caregiver involvement in treatment is critical.



Contact Information

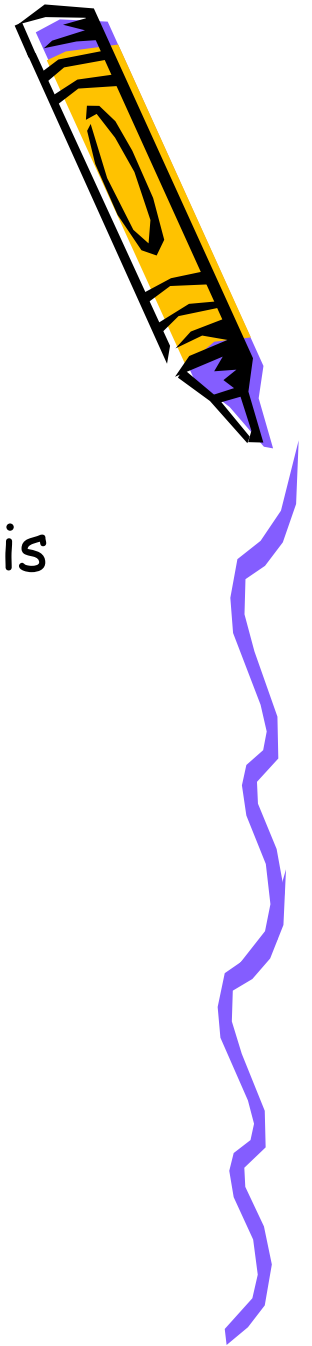
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