

# GROOMING TRAINING

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# OUTLINE

- What is Grooming
- Stages of Grooming
- Signs of Grooming
- Grooming Prevention
- How to Report Sexual Abuse

# WHAT IS GROOMING?

Grooming is defined as when someone attempts to seduce, solicit, lure, or entice a child, a child's guardian, or another person believed by the person to be a child or child's guardian.

Grooming is also when someone commits, or attempts to commit, any sex offense as defined in Section 2 of the Sex Offender Registration Act or distributes photographs of the sex organs of a child, or someone believed to be a child.

“Child” is considered as a person under the age of 17.

## WHAT IS GROOMING CONTINUED...

Grooming can include communicating or attempting to befriend or establish a relationship or other emotional connection with the child or their parent/guardian. This can be done both in person or online.

It can also include engaging in predatory conduct to prepare a child or young person for sexual activity at a later time.

Grooming is now considered a criminal offense under the Crimes Act 1958 and is a Class 4 Felony.

# STAGES OF GROOMING

- Targeting
- Gaining Trust & Access
- Relationship Building
- Sexualizing the Relationship
- Control/Reinforcement
- Victimization

## STAGES OF GROOMING CONTINUED.....

### Targeting

The perpetrator will first begin by identifying their victim. They may look for a child that is more vulnerable or has less parental oversight.

They may look for a young person in places they frequent such as schools or chat rooms.

## STAGES OF GROOMING CONTINUED...

### Gaining Trust and Access

The perpetrator begins to gain trust and access of the victim. They will attempt to keep in close contact with the victim.

They may give them gifts, make them feel special, do favors for them, or plan fun activities in an attempt to isolate them from their friends and family.

## STAGES OF GROOMING CONTINUED...

### Relationship Building

The perpetrator may begin to show a romantic interest in the victim and use the developing relationship to create situations in which they are alone with the victim. They may introduce the victim to sexual acts gradually by small means, such as small touches.

The victim may feel this is normal and they are in control as the groomer slowly begins to take control and isolate them.



## STAGES OF GROOMING CONTINUED...

### Sexualizing the Relationship

Once the relationship has been established, the perpetrator will begin to sexualize the relationship.

Desensitization can occur through talking, pictures, or creating situations in which they may be naked around the victim, such as getting ready in the locker room or swimming.

## STAGES OF GROOMING CONTINUED...

### Control/Reinforcement

The perpetrator will try to show the victim they have power over them. They may try to coerce them into actions and use those as leverage to keep them in the relationship.

The perpetrator could attempt to entrap the young person by getting them to perform acts that are dangerous or illegal such as drinking or taking/selling drugs.

## STAGES OF GROOMING CONTINUED...

### Victimization

The perpetrator will try to maintain control of the relationship. They may force the child into sexual acts for things they need or want by force or persuasion.

Groomers will often persuade the victim into this by using blackmail or making it seem like normal behavior.

## IDENTIFYING THE SIGNS

Most of the time, victims are unlikely to tell someone they are being abused. They may be convinced they are in a normal, loving relationship, or that they do not have a choice. The perpetrator may have led them to believe nobody will believe them, or that they will be in trouble.

Often, a young person is 'groomed' before they are sexually abused. Since they have likely been brainwashed into believing this is normal behavior displayed by an adult, they may not realize they are being abused. Which is why it is important to keep an eye out for different types and signs of grooming.

# SIGNS OF GROOMING

- Regular absences from school and extra curricular activities.
- Being extremely fatigued at school.
- Coming to school with gifts or money that was given to them by a new friend they are secretive about or hesitant to talk about.
- Being picked up or dropped off for school by a different person or in a different location.
- Displaying obvious mood changes.
- Asking to be called by a different name/nickname.
- Seeming to have an unusually close connection with a particular adult.

# WHO IS MOST AT RISK?

Victims can be of any gender, ethnic background, age, socio-economic status, or sexual orientation. It is important to be vigilant and aware of the signs on grooming in all young people. However, there are factors that can make a young person more vulnerable to being taken advantage of.

## WHO IS MOST AT RISK CONTINUED...

Some risk factors can include:

- Chaotic home life
- Lack of parental oversight
- Isolation/Neglect
- Emotional Neediness
- Disabilities

# PREVENTION

- Talking to children about sexual abuse may be uncomfortable but can be vital in educating them on what to look out for.
- Age-appropriate sexual abuse awareness and prevention program.
- Education and training for school staff as recommended by the Superintendent, Title IX Coordinator, Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Building Principal, Assistant Building Principal, Dean of Students or Complaint Manager.



## PREVENTION CONTINUED...

- Review rules about body safety boundaries.
- Teach children to never keep something that makes them uncomfortable a secret.
- Help children make a list of trusted adults they can talk to.
- Remind the child that even if they have been keeping something secret for a long time, it is never, ever too late to tell a trusted adult.
- Establish internet safety rules and review them on a frequent basis.

# REPORTING SEXUAL ABUSE

Suspected Sexual Abuse can be reported any of the following ways:

- Illinois Department of Children and Family Services Child Abuse hotline 800-25-ABUSE(22873) OR 217-524-2606
- Illinois State Police hotline 888-414-7678 Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's CyberTipline 800-843-5678, or online at [www.cybertipline.com](http://www.cybertipline.com)
- The reporting employee must also promptly notify the Superintendent, Building Principal, Complaint Manager, or Title IX Coordinator of a discovery and that a report has been made, or if a report needs to be made.

For more information about reporting Sexual Abuse please see policies 2:260 Uniform Grievance Procedure; 2:265 Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure, and 5:90 Abused and Neglected Child Reporting.

# THANK YOU!

PLEASE PROCEED WITH COMPLETING THE  
QUIZ FOR THIS TRAINING PRESENTATION.