



Behaviors of Sexual Predators Fact Sheet:



Sexual grooming is the process during which a child sexual offender draws a child in by gaining his or her trust in order to sexually abuse the child and maintain secrecy. The offender may also groom the parents by persuading them of his or her trustworthiness with children. The process of grooming may last months or even years to break through a child's defenses and increase the child's acceptance of physical contact. The stages of grooming may include:

- **Targeting the victim.** Child sexual offenders test for vulnerability and look for emotional neediness, isolation, and low self-confidence, as well as less parental attention.
- **Gaining the child's trust.** Offenders watch and get to know their victims and their needs, as well as how to fulfill them. The predator may introduce secrecy to build trust with the child and distance the child from his or her parents, such as allowing the child to do something the parents would not approve of.
- **Filling a need.** Once the predator learns to fill the child's needs with gifts, affection, or attention, they take on a more important role in the child's life.
- **Isolating the child.** The offender may offer to babysit the children for free or do other favors in order to find ways to be alone with the child without adult interruptions. Parents may unknowingly encourage this by appreciating this unique relationship.
- **Sexualizing the interaction.** Grooming begins with nonsexual touching, such as accidental or playful touching to desensitize the child so the child does not resist a more sexualized touch. The offender then exploits the child's curiosity to advance the sexuality of the interaction.
- **Maintaining control.** The predator may use threats and guilt to enforce secrecy and force the child's continued participation and silence: "If you tell your mother what happened, she'll hate you" or "If you tell anyone, I'll hurt someone in the family." The abuser may also blame the child for allowing it to happen or normalize it by saying that it is "okay".

grooming

(n.) a deliberate process by which offenders gradually initiate and maintain sexual relationships with victims in secrecy.



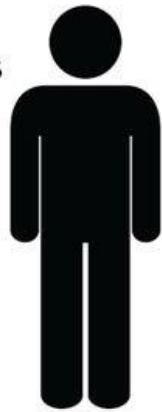
GROOMING BEHAVIORS

Before children are sexually abused, they are often groomed by abusers. Do you know the signs?

Special attention or gifts

Isolating the child from others

Filling needs and roles within the family



Treating the child as if he or she is older

Gradually crossing physical boundaries, even in public

Learn the signs, stop the abuse.

D2L.org/5Steps

HOW GROOMING HAPPENS

- **Bribing the Child**
- **Flattering the Child**
- **Sexualized Games & Intimacy Building**
- **Desensitization**
- **Threats & Blackmail**
- **Scattergun Approach**

Childhood sexual abuse is widespread:



1 in 5 girls



1 in 20 boys



Nearly

30% of children

between 14 and 17 are sexually victimized.

Childhood abuse survivors:



3x more likely to develop major depression



4x more likely to experience PTSD



4x more likely to develop substance abuse disorders

Only 7% of child sex abuse victims

are harmed by a stranger. The vast majority are abused by someone they know, from friends and family members to a teacher or neighbor.



Abuse Guardian

NOT OK TOUCH

No one has the right to touch you in places and ways that make you feel scared or uncomfortable.

These are the areas where you should **NOT BE TOUCHED!**



LIPS

CHEST

BOTTOM

BETWEEN YOUR LEGS



Every 9 minutes,

child protective services substantiates, or finds evidence for, a claim of child sexual abuse.

RAINN

National Sexual Assault Hotline | 800.656.HOPE | online.rainn.org
Please visit rainn.org/statistics/children-and-teens for full citation.¹

FIFTEEN APPS

PARENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

MEETME



MEETME IS A DATING SOCIAL MEDIA APP THAT ALLOWS USERS TO CONNECT WITH PEOPLE BASED ON GEOGRAPHIC PROXIMITY. AS THE APP'S NAME SUGGESTS, USERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO MEET EACH OTHER IN PERSON.

CRINDR



CRINDR IS A DATING APP GEARED TOWARDS GAY, BI AND TRANSGENDER PEOPLE. THE APP GIVES USERS OPTIONS TO CHAT, SHARE PHOTOS AND MEET UP BASED ON A SMART PHONE'S GPS LOCATION.

SKOUT



SKOUT IS A LOCATION-BASED DATING APP AND WEBSITE. WHILE USERS UNDER 17-YEARS-OLD ARE UNABLE TO SHARE PRIVATE PHOTOS, KIDS CAN EASILY CREATE AN ACCOUNT USING A DIFFERENT AGE.

WHATSAPP



WHATSAPP IS A POPULAR MESSAGING APP THAT ALLOWS USERS TO SEND TEXTS, PHOTOS, MAKE CALLS AND VIDEO CHATS WORLDWIDE. WHATSAPP USES AN INTERNET CONNECTION ON SMART PHONES AND COMPUTERS.

TIKTOK



TIKTOK IS A NEW MOBILE DEVICE APP POPULAR WITH KIDS USED FOR CREATING AND SHARING SHORT VIDEOS. WITH VERY LIMITED PRIVACY CONTROLS, USERS ARE VULNERABLE TO BULLYING AND EXPLICIT CONTENT.

BADOO



BADOO IS A DATING AND SOCIAL NETWORKING APP WHERE USERS CAN CHAT, SHARE PHOTOS AND VIDEOS AND CONNECT BASED ON LOCATION. WHILE THE APP IS INTENDED FOR ADULTS ONLY, TEENS ARE KNOWN TO CREATE PROFILES.

BUMBLE



BUMBLE IS SIMILAR TO THE POPULAR DATING APP 'TINDER' HOWEVER, IT REQUIRES WOMEN TO MAKE THE FIRST CONTACT. KIDS HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO USE BUMBLE TO CREATE FAKE ACCOUNTS AND FALSIFY THEIR AGE.

SNAPCHAT



SNAPCHAT IS ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR APPS IN RECENT YEARS. WHILE THE APP PROMISES USERS CAN TAKE A PHOTO/VIDEO AND IT WILL DISAPPEAR, NEW FEATURES INCLUDING 'STORIES' ALLOW USERS TO VIEW CONTENT FOR UP TO 24

KIK



KIK ALLOWS ANYONE TO CONTACT AND DIRECT MESSAGE YOUR CHILD. KIDS CAN BYPASS TRADITIONAL TEXT MESSAGING FEATURES. KIK GIVES USERS UNLIMITED ACCESS TO ANYONE, ANYWHERE, ANYTIME.

LIVE.ME



LIVE.ME IS A LIVE-STREAMING VIDEO APP THAT USES GEOLOCATION TO SHARE VIDEOS SO USERS CAN FIND OUT A BROADCASTER'S EXACT LOCATION. USERS CAN EARN 'COINS' AS A WAY TO 'PAY' MINORS FOR PHOTOS.

HOLLA



HOLLA IS A SELF-PROCLAIMED 'ADDICTING' VIDEO CHAT APP THAT ALLOWS USERS TO MEET PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WORLD IN JUST SECONDS. REVIEWERS SAY THEY HAVE BEEN CONFRONTED WITH RACIAL SLURS, EXPLICIT CONTENT AND MORE.

WHISPER



WHISPER IS AN ANONYMOUS SOCIAL NETWORK THAT PROMOTES SHARING SECRETS WITH STRANGERS. IT ALSO REVEALS A USER'S LOCATION SO PEOPLE CAN MEET UP.

ASK.FM



ASK.FM IS KNOWN FOR CYBER BULLYING. THE APP ENCOURAGES USERS TO ALLOW ANONYMOUS PEOPLE TO ASK THEM QUESTIONS.

CALCULATOR%



CALCULATOR% IS ONLY ONE OF SEVERAL SECRET APPS USED TO HIDE PHOTOS, VIDEOS, FILES AND BROWSER HISTORY.

HOT OR NOT



HOT OR NOT ENCOURAGES USERS TO RATE YOUR PROFILE, CHECK OUT PEOPLE IN THEIR AREA, AND CHAT WITH STRANGERS. THE GOAL OF THIS APP IS TO HOOK UP.

Have You Seen These?

7 APPS
THAT COULD
HURT YOUR
TEEN



BurnBook: anonymous app for posting text, photos and audio rumor messages about others.



Secret: allows anonymous message sharing. When a student sees a secret on the app, they don't know who posted it, only that know one of their 3-100 connections sent it.



"Calculator" / Private Photo: hides photos and videos behind an innocent looking calculator app.



Slingshot: a comparison app, marketed to boys, that allows users to vote or create polls, including polls that are not appropriate for teens.



Whisper: anonymous social network that allows people to "express themselves" to strangers. Whisper also reveals a user's location.



Gather: event planning app to share events. The app uses a method of spamming that creates false credibility since users think their friends are suggesting they use the app



MyLOL: designed for students 13-19 years old. Built-in features of MyLOL encourage users to send private messages to random strangers.

- Any information related to this case call Katie Walker at the GBI (706) 552-2309
- National Sexual Abuse Hotline: 800-656-4673
- Suicide Prevention Hotline: 800-273-8255

Thank you for your support.

Email: justiceforjennifercobb@gmail.com

Website: www.justiceforjennifercobb.com



Chat online at:
online.rainn.org

