



Present By:



# STOP Child Abuse Through Effective Training And Augmented Reality

## MODULE 2- GROOMING

C1 Training Event  
Date: 18/10/21

## Main Topics

This module covers the following topics:

- Introduction to Grooming
- Befriending / Gaining Trust
- Offering Favors
- Testing Boundaries
- Exercise Control/ Secrecy
- How to react when suspicious about grooming practices





## Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this module you will be able to:

- Understand what grooming is, the different stages of grooming manifestation and the risks associated with it.
- Understand the reasons groomers will try to gain the trust of the child/ young person and the different ways they might use to achieve it.
- Understand the reasons why groomers will offer gifts and favors to the child/ youth.
- Understand the importance of boundaries and when they are violated.
- Understand the reasons why groomers will try to exercise control over the victim and the different ways/ tricks will employ to achieve this.
- Understand how to approach and communicate with someone when suspicious about grooming practices and how to report a disclosure of abuse.





## What is Grooming?

- Visit the page: <https://www.mentimeter.com/>



## What is Grooming?

Grooming is defined as...

*'The use of a variety of manipulative and controlling techniques, with a vulnerable subject, in a range of inter-personal and social settings, in order to establish trust or normalize sexually harmful behavior, with the overall aim of facilitating exploitation and/or prohibiting exposure.'* - McAlinden (2013, p.11)

Grooming can:

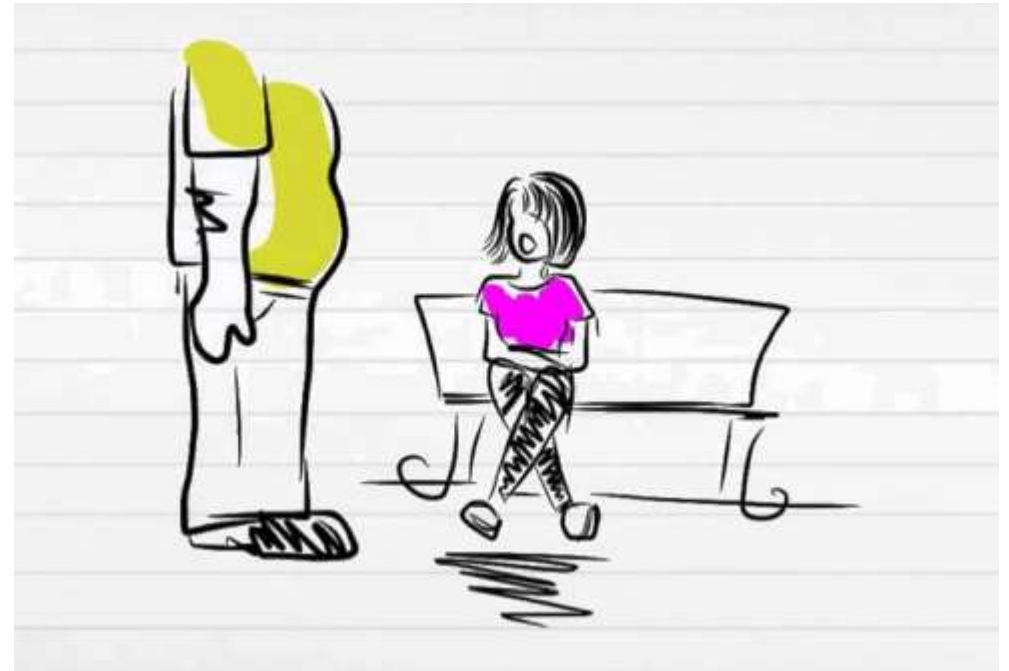
- take place over a **short or long period of time** – from hours to days, even years.
- Take place in **different settings** (on-line or in the physical world)
- Perpetrated by a **completely stranger or by someone they know** and who consider a 'friend'.



## Why is Grooming happening?

The purpose of grooming is...

- to manipulate the perceptions of other adults around the child.
- to manipulate the child into becoming a co-operating participant which reduces the likelihood of a disclosure and increases the likelihood that the child will repeatedly return to the offender.
- to reduce the likelihood of the child being believed if they do disclose.
- to reduce the likelihood of the abuse being detected.





## The 5 Stages of Grooming Process

Gaining Trust –  
Establish Relationship

Filling a Need –  
Offering Favors

Testing Boundaries

Maintain Control/  
Secrecy



## Gaining Trust/ Establish a Relationship

Often, the relationship a groomer aims to build with the victim can take several forms such as (NSPCC,2020):

- A romantic relationship.
- Act as an authority figure.
- Act as a mentor.
- Act as a dominant and persistent figure.



Children and youth who are more vulnerable to be manipulated and victimized include:

- Socially Isolated
- Facing Mental Health or Behavioral Difficulties
- Low Self-Esteem
- Bad relationship with their parents/ guardians



## Filling a Need/ Offering Favours

Offering gifts and favors is a strategy employed by a lot of groomers to assume noticeably more importance in the child's life and a way to increase child's dependence on the abuser.

These lures tend to focus on:

- Behaviors which provide **access to otherwise restricted material or activities** (Driving Illegally, Drinking/ Drugs)
- Behaviors which aim to fill child's **emotional needs** (Increased Attention, Fulfilling Desires)





## Testing Boundaries

When a groomer has gained the trust of the child, they might start testing the boundaries and making the relationship more sexual in nature.

Here are few examples:

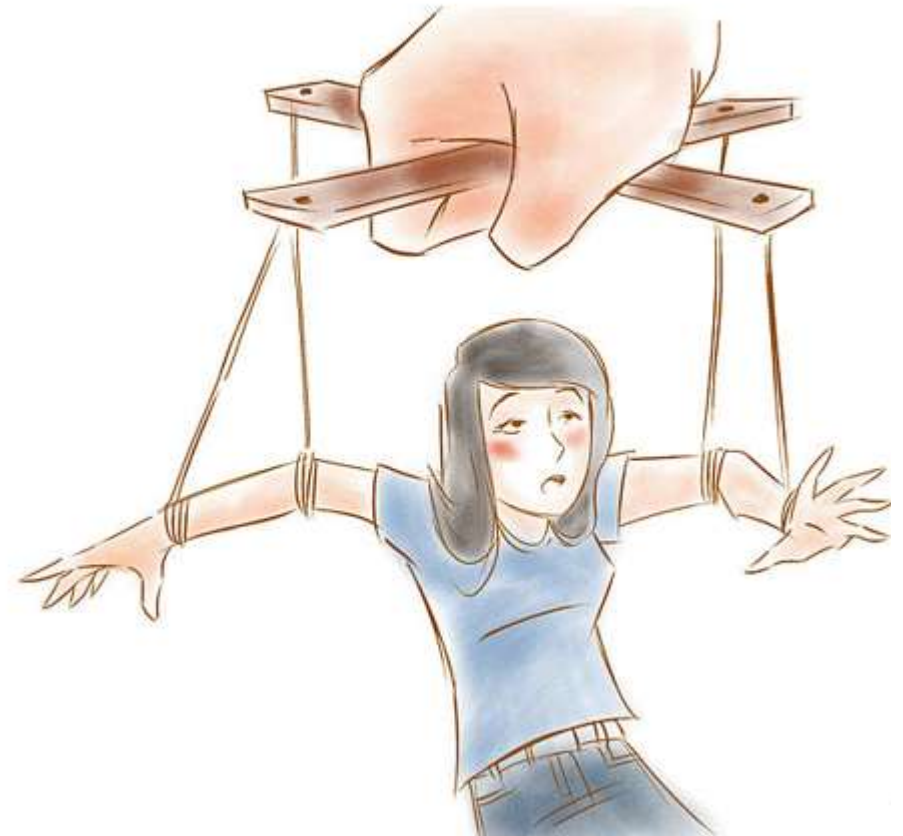
- **Inappropriate touch** - ‘accidentally’ touching a private part of the body, to test the reaction of the child.
- **Sexualized Jokes / Games** – might be used to test the boundaries.
- **Talking about Sex and Relationships** - especially for youth who might develop some curiosity on the subject, perpetrators might use this as an opportunity to test the boundaries
- **Sharing Sexually Explicit Material** – in a try to normalize sexual behaviour, especially online.



## Maintain Control/ Secrecy

Here are few ways used by perpetrators to trap the victim and maintain control (Tanner and Brake, 2013):

- **Direct threats** – the victim is told that if they reveal the abuse, they or their family/ friends will be hurt or killed.
- **Reflexive threats**– at this point the offender has established a position of value in the victims' life and they threaten the victim that they will be in trouble.
- **Belief** – the victim is often told that even if they reveal the abuse, nobody will believe them.
- **Shame** – offenders point out that if the victim tells, everyone will find out. Additionally, sometimes the perpetrator might try to evoke 'guilty' feelings to the victim that it is their fault or that they provoked them to commit the abuse.
- **Ongoing Grooming** – sometimes the process of grooming (giving compliments, gifts) continues and after the abuse, with the abuser finding different excuses ('It won't happen again – I slipped') to keep the victim in the relationship.





## Suspecting Grooming Practices – Potential Signs

### Secrecy

They don't express how they are spending their time, either online or offline.

### Unexplained possessions

They have money, new things or even game credits and they won't say how they got them.

### Negative emotions

They appear upset, withdrawn or distressed, and they are in a "bad mood".

### Away a lot

They might spend a lot of time away from home, or disappear for periods of time.



### Older partner

They have an older boyfriend or girlfriend.

### Sexualised behaviour

They express sexualized language or behavior beyond what is appropriate for their age.

### Changes in device use

They might spend more or less time on their devices.

## Activity – Grooming Detectives

Now you are ready to become Grooming Detectives!

1. Join your **GIT (Grooming Investigation Team)**.
2. Watch the short video and **spot warning signs for grooming practices**.
3. **Note down** as many as you can find – a discussion will follow.





## Reporting Grooming Practices

- ✓ **Start a conversation** – by starting the conversation you are giving them the opportunity to speak out, even if they choose not to disclose anything you are reminding them you are there and they are able to ask for help if they need to.
- ✓ **Do not frighten the child/youth by asking confronting questions** – try to keep it casual and use open ended questions.
- ✓ **Listen carefully** to what they are saying.
- ✓ Let them know that **it is not their fault** and they have done the right thing by telling you.
- ✓ Say you will take them seriously and **explain the next steps** – follow your obligation to report as soon as practically possible and follow your organization's protocol if any, or contact directly the police.





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**THANK YOU**

**STOP Child Abuse  
Through Effective  
Training And Augmented  
Reality**

# **STOP CHILD ABUSE - FRAMEWORK**

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