

What is grooming?

Child grooming is a manipulative tactic used by adults to establish and maintain a relationship with a child for the purpose of sexual abuse or exploitation. It is a process of gradual manipulation and conditioning, where the perpetrator gains the trust of the child and gradually breaks down their boundaries and resistance.

Grooming often starts with seemingly innocent actions, such as offering the child



gifts, attention, and affection. The perpetrator may also use flattery and compliments to gain the child's trust and make them feel special and loved.

As the relationship progresses, the perpetrator may start to isolate the child from their family and friends, making them dependent on the perpetrator for emotional support and validation. This can also involve building a secret and intimate relationship with the child, making them feel like they have a special bond with the perpetrator.



The grooming process also often involves desensitizing the child to

inappropriate or sexual behavior by exposing them to sexually explicit material, making sexual jokes or comments, or engaging in

inappropriate physical contact.

The perpetrator may also use threats, coercion, and blackmail to keep the child from disclosing the abuse.

500,000 predators are online daily

Grooming can happen both online and offline, with perpetrators using social media and other digital platforms to connect with and groom children. In some cases, the perpetrator may also use their position of teacher, or family member, to groom the child.

The grooming process can take place over weeks, months, or even years, and can have long-lasting effects on the child's mental and emotional well-being.



It is important for parents, caregivers, and educators to be aware of the signs of grooming and to educate children on how to recognize and protect themselves from potential perpetrators. It is also crucial for society to break the stigma and silence surrounding child grooming and to hold perpetrators accountable for their actions.

*To learn more about preventing child trafficking and exploitation, contact Just One Child for a free presentation by sending a message to: **info@justonechild.ngo***

*Check out our website for other topics and events: **www.justonechild.ngo***

