

SIGNS OF GROOMING

Subtle tactics predators use to **build trust** before abuse



Making the child feel special or different such as giving gifts/excessive compliments, paying special attention to the child, telling the child they are mature for their age, or talking to them about adult topics

Asking the child to keep secrets. Before abuse begins, predators often first cultivate a relationship where secrecy is normal. They may tell the child their own embarrassing secrets, learn secrets about the child or urge them into prohibited activities such as drug and alcohol use so that they can later use it as blackmail



Creating intense emotional turmoil, predators often begin creating dramatic scenarios where they demand the child's time and emotional support. This behavior often becomes even more drastic if the child starts to pull away or tries to get help

Building trust within the family and community. By appearing trustworthy and helpful, family and community members are less likely to question their involvement in their child's life. They also can leverage these dynamics to pressure the child into staying silent about the abuse



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