

What is meant by grooming?

- What does it mean to you?
- How are people groomed?
- How do you know you are being groomed?
- Why does it matter?
- In your groups come up with your definition of what grooming is.
- 8 mins then feedback

- The NSPCC gives the following definition of grooming on their website:
- Grooming is when someone builds an emotional connection with a child to gain their trust for the purposes of sexual abuse or exploitation.
- Children and young people can be groomed online or in the real world, by a stranger or by someone they know - for example a family member, friend or professional.
- Groomers may be male or female. They could be any age.
- Many children and young people don't understand that they have been groomed, or that what has happened is abuse.

Overview

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p03gmw7q>

Spotting the Signs

- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p03gkbnv>

IN GROUPS OF 4

- What were the warning signs that grooming was taking place
- Are all cases of grooming the same?
- Think about warning signs that were not present in this case, but are also important to look out for.
- 7 mins then feedback

Answer these as a group – 7 mins then feedback

- Are people always who they say they are online?
- Who has let somebody join their chat online as a friend of somebody else?
- It is easy for someone to post fake photos, stream a fake webcam feed, or learn about you and your friends online so that they can pretend to be a friend of a friend. Always check with other friends that know them in the real world. Is it okay to get personal with someone you only know online?
- In groups, list personal information that you feel it is safe to share online, and personal information you don't feel it is safe to share online.

Some common signs of grooming

Flattery: An abuser will do whatever they can to make someone feel special, including flattery and buying them gifts. It's harder to think critically when someone is praising you.

Sexual chat: Abusers may try to get young people to talk about sex, often very quickly. Remember that it's against the law for an adult to have sex with anyone under 16.

Sharing intimate pictures: Once private pictures have been shared online they can be copied and shared. Some abusers may threaten to show images to others if young people don't do what they want - this is blackmail and a crime.

Chatting privately: When chatting privately, add new people to your social networks with caution. It's a good idea to question the motives of anyone requesting a private chat.

Keeping secrets: Abusers might ask for their conversations to be kept secret and tell the young person that they will be in trouble if they confide in others about the chats.

Mood swings: People who abuse try to control young people by flattering them and giving them lots of attention. If young people don't do what they want, they take that away or suddenly become very nasty.

Broken webcam: It is easy to record and fake a webcam feed. What you see is not always the person at the other end. Never webcam with a stranger with a broken webcam, they may be pretending to be someone they are not.

Something doesn't feel right

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p03gkbt8>

7 mins to discuss and come up with your answers before feeding back to the class.

- How did Breck change?
- What did Breck's friends notice about him?
- What did his parents notice about him?
- What are the warning signs that a friend might be being groomed?
- Why might it be hard for someone to tell if they are being groomed?
- Why are relationships with older people a bad idea?

- These are some common behaviours you might notice if a young person is being groomed:
- Secretive: Becoming increasingly secretive about what they are doing or who they are talking to. Abusers will try to make sure no one else finds out what they are doing. An abuser may suggest no one else would understand or that their victim will get in trouble if they do tell someone.
- 24/7: They are constantly glued to their phone, computer or social networks, and become very worried or anxious if they can't check them. We all like to stay in touch online, but it can also be a sign that someone is controlling them.
- Mood changes: A change in emotional state or personality - becoming sad, withdrawn, distant or emotionally volatile without saying why. There are lots of reasons why this could happen but someone trying to control them could be one of them.
- Gifts: Receiving unexplained gifts or new possessions that can't
- be accounted for, or vague talk about a new friend without offering much further information. Someone older: Mentioning someone older. An abuser may try to persuade a child that they are in a relationship and that they are their boyfriend or girlfriend. This can make it difficult for someone to recognise that they are being groomed.
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Reporting abuse

- What could Breck's friends have said to him to try to help him?
- Who could Breck's friends have told?
- What resources are there for you to report concerning behaviour online?
- What should you do if you suspect someone is being groomed?

In your groups prepare your answers to feedback in 7 mins.

Am I safe online?

- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p03gkc0d>

How do I ensure we stay safe?

- What are the things you need to consider?
- In your groups come up with your do's and dont's. Give a reason behind each one.