

Safe Bedrooms

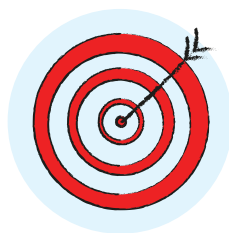
A initiative of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation



STAGES of Grooming

RED FLAG Behaviours

Targeting



The first stage involves targeting a young person based upon their perceived vulnerabilities, how connected they are to family and friends and how likely it may be that the groomer is exposed.

Children may:

- be happy or excited at receiving attention
- spend more time online
- become more secretive about what they are doing online
- perceive a predator as a friend.

Isolating

During the second stage of grooming, the predator typically creates dependency by filling the child's social/emotional needs and creating distance between the child and their family or protective networks.

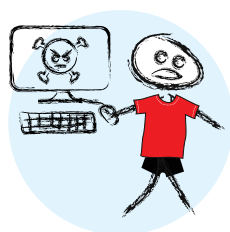


Children may:

- fight or disengage with family and friends
- receive unexplained gifts, including data and online credits/gift cards
- have more money than usual
- become more secretive.

Manipulating

The third stage of grooming is where a predator will take control of the victim's life via manipulation and coercion.



They may start to desensitise the child by slowly exposing them to sexual themes, nude photos, and sexualised language. They may be encouraged to engage in online sexual behaviour such as taking nude selfies or masturbating on webcam.

Children may:

- use sexual language
- experience mood swings
- spend less time with their friends
- stop doing things they normally enjoy.

Controlling

The last stage of grooming involves total dominance, and the predator will go to great lengths to maintain control. In most cases, the offender uses secrecy, blame, and even threats and intimidation to keep the child from saying anything. For example, they may threaten to share explicit photos with the child's family or friends.



Children may:

- appear withdrawn, sullen, fearful or depressed
- have low self-esteem or blame themselves
- feel helpless
- lash out in anger.