

# Safe Bedrooms

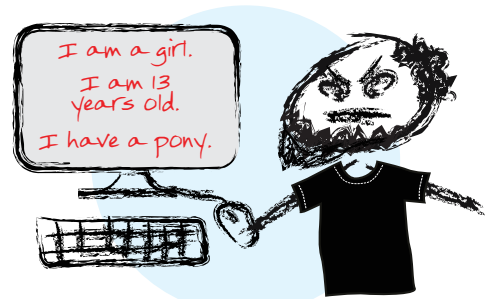
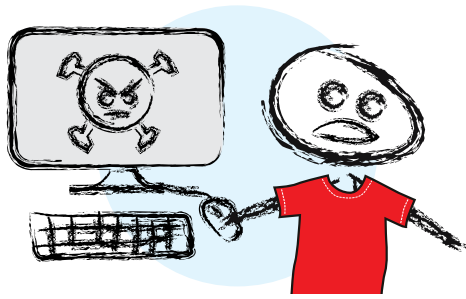
A initiative of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation



## What do groomers look like?

**Grooming can be really tricky to identify as no two groomers are alike.**

The internet makes it easy for people to mask their true intentions and hide in plain sight. Whether online or in real life, groomers broadly fall into two categories. Talking to your children about the types of behaviour to be suspicious of can assist them to recognise grooming if they see it in real life, or online.



### THE INVESTED GROOMER

The planned groomer will spend a lot of time carefully selecting their victim. They will assess the risk of exposure by asking questions that allow them to figure out how connected a child is and what vulnerabilities they may have. For example, asking where they use their device or whether their parents monitor their messages.

The planned groomer is a master of disguise and can enact their plan slowly, gradually wearing down the barriers not just of the victim, but sometimes the victims friends. Some strategies they use include:

- building rapport
- normalising sexual themes in discussion
- manipulation techniques like blackmailing and gaslighting
- isolating the victim from family and friends by convincing them that they are the only ones who understand them.
- coercion
- control and domination via threats and emotional abuse.

Ultimately, the planned groomer wants to establish control of their victim and wield their abuse while convincing themselves and others that they are the true victim.

### THE GAMBLING GROOMER

The unplanned groomer will lurk in plain sight, often within games that children play online.

They will generally mask their identity by pretending to be *just another kid* playing the game. These groomers are quite haphazard in their approach and will cast a wide net, waiting to pounce when an opportunity arises.

They will look for any opportunity to quickly establish a friendship, convince a child to send them a photo or allow them to access the child's webcam. They will disappear as soon as they have the material that they want.

This type of groomer operates so unpredictably that the child may not be aware of the gravity of the situation or have an understanding that something bad has occurred.

The best way to protect your child against this type of groomer is to have open conversations about the types of requests they may receive online and how to think critically about the intent behind the request.