

Let's discuss... **Grooming**

<p>INTRODUCING THE TOPIC...</p>	<p><b>Grooming</b> is when someone builds an emotional connection with a young person to gain their trust for the purposes of sexual abuse, sexual exploitation or trafficking.</p> <p>Young people can be groomed online or face-to-face, by a stranger or by someone they know</p> <p>Groomers can be male or female and any age.</p>
<p>THINGS TO KNOW AND TALK ABOUT...</p>	<p>6 typical stages of grooming</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Targeting the victim (could be through social media, or on a gaming site, or in the real world)</li> <li>2. Gaining the trust of the victim (typically the groomer tries to identify with the victim, to show understanding, compassion, or shared experience)</li> <li>3. Filling a need of the victim (could be in the form of friendship, understanding, flattery, or by offering some sort of expertise)</li> <li>4. Isolating the victim (the groomer claims they are the only person who understands, and discourages the victim from socializing with usual friends or family)</li> <li>5. Sexualising the relationship (once the relationship is established, a sexual element is introduced)</li> <li>6. Maintaining control (through continued flattery, or bribery, or threats)</li> </ol> <p>The process may take many months, or even years, but can also be really quick, depending on the skill of the groomer and the vulnerability of the potential victim.</p>
<p>HELP AND ADVICE...</p>	<p><a href="https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/Online-grooming/">https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/Online-grooming/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.barnardos.org.uk/barnardos-online-grooming-survey-2016.pdf">https://www.barnardos.org.uk/barnardos-online-grooming-survey-2016.pdf</a></p>