

Chapter 6:

Predatory People and Grooming

EDUCATOR FACILITATION GUIDE

PURPOSE OF THIS GUIDE

To provide practical tips and instructions for engaging students and handling difficult discussions on the topic of predatory people and grooming.

MAIN OBJECTIVES

- ▶ To clearly define predators by their behaviors and dismantle any stereotypes.
- ▶ To provide students with an understanding of what constitutes predatory behavior.
- ▶ To equip students with the ability to identify indicators of predatory behavior both in-person and online.

CREATING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

- ▶ Use inclusive language and terminology that acknowledges these issues can affect individuals of any gender, and ensure the tone remains non-judgmental.
- ▶ Emphasize respectful communication and confidentiality. It is important to listen and value each other's perspectives even if we don't agree with them.
- ▶ If your students have lots of questions or seem restless, take breaks in between the videos to debrief.
- ▶ Offer emotional outlets such as doodling or colouring sheets during the videos and discussion.
- ▶ Let your students know that if they feel triggered, they can go to the school office or speak with the school counsellor.
- ▶ Identify any local support resources and organizations on the issue ahead of time, so that you can readily refer students who may need additional support.

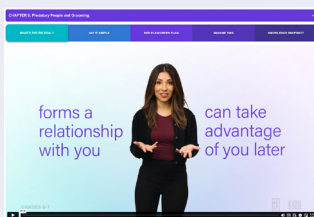
MODERATING DISCUSSIONS

- ▶ Ensure that all students have the opportunity to speak.
- ▶ Providing the class with an anonymous question box might help the students who may not feel comfortable asking important questions.
- ▶ If a question is inappropriate or derails the discussion, gently redirect it back to the main topic.
- ▶ If you don't know the answer, it's okay to admit it! Provide additional resources or take note to look into the question later.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW

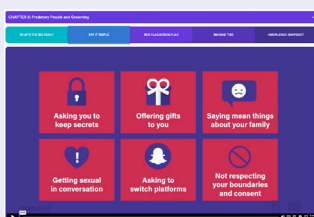
- ▶ A predator is simply someone who wants to sexually take advantage of a minor and has bad intentions towards them.
- ▶ Grooming is the process where a predatory person builds trust and a relationship with a minor with the intention of committing a sexual offense against them.
- ▶ Oftentimes, predatory people can be someone in a child's or youth's life. Predatory people build trust with their victims and often act as a friend, a mentor, an authority figure, or a romantic interest.
- ▶ While any gender can be predatory, the majority of predators and exploiters are males.
- ▶ In Canada, The median age of men and boys accused of online sexual offences against children was 24 years, and men and boys accused of child pornography had a median age of 29 years. (<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2022001/article/00008-eng.htm>)
- ▶ Ultimately, predators are not defined by age or appearance but by their behavior. The standard red flags of grooming by a predatory person includes:
 - An age difference past the legal age of consent (see Chapter 1 Facilitation Guide).
 - Providing gifts such as technology devices, gaming tokens, gift cards.
 - Paying for things such as makeup, designer items, Amazon wish list items.
 - Creating a need for secrecy from parents.
 - Creating emotional distance between trusted people such as family or friends.
 - Love bombing.
 - Engaging in sexual conversations or suggesting sexual behaviours early on (online or in-person).
- ▶ When it comes to the internet, there are 750,000 predatory people online at any given moment looking to connect with minors. (<https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/02/1084262>)
- ▶ The large majority (84%) of victims of police-reported online sexual offences against children were youth aged 12 to 17. (<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2022001/article/00008-eng.htm>)
- ▶ There have been instances of group grooming where predatory people will engage in sexual interactions, conversations, or avatar activities with one another on a gaming platform or Discord in order to normalize these behaviours for the minors that are interactive with them.
- ▶ AI has become a powerful tool for predators to target victims through baiting. Baiting involves using deepfake technology to create AI-generated images, videos, or audio recordings that appear genuine. Oftentimes this is to present as someone younger, a romantic interest, or a celebrity. They can use this technology to send photos, facilitate live video calls, create pornography to normalize sexual behaviours or create pornographic content of someone else in order to blackmail them.

FACILITATION TIPS FOR CHAPTER 6



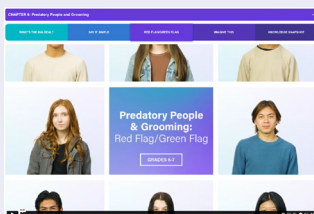
What's the Big Deal?

After watching the video, facilitate a discussion building on the conversation started in the video. Encourage them to share their initial thoughts and reactions. Ask probing questions such as: what signs did they associate with predators, based on what the kids mentioned? Now, think about the term “grooming” - when someone tries to build trust before causing harm. How can we tell if someone is genuinely trustworthy or if they have the wrong intentions?



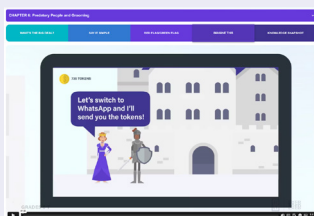
Say It Simple

Pause at the 00:41 second mark to discuss the 6 red flags to identify predatory behaviour. Ask students to share why each of these red flags on the screen are signs of predatory behaviour. What can we do if we notice these red flags in our online interactions?



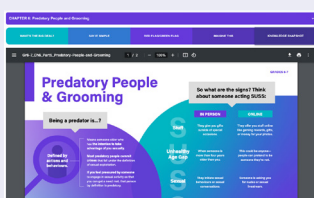
Red Flag/Green Flag

You can pause the video after each question, to have discussion about what everyone thinks their answer would be, and discuss if you agree with what Camille, Kevin, Nate and Kara share.



Imagine This

After watching the video, rewind and pause at 1:14 to dive deeper into the ‘SUSS’ acronym with the students. Prompt them to pinpoint the specific red flags in the SUSS acronym that occurred in the video animation featuring Alex. Encourage students to brainstorm additional examples of red flags for each category letter of the acronym: Stuff, Unusual Age, Sexual, and Switch.



Knowledge Snapshot

Print out the page to keep in the classroom or at home as a summary of the key learnings from this chapter. Encourage students to use the reflection page as a tool for practice and applying what they've learned.

FAQ'S AND RESPONSES TO GET YOU THINKING

Q: Which platforms are most predators on? In other words, which are the most dangerous?

R: The platforms that are most commonly linked to reports of online sexual exploitation or predatory people include: Roblox, Discord, Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, Kik, Twitch, or even livestream websites like Omegle. However, any popular platform with a large number of teen users that includes chat functions, image-sharing options, video calls, or features like disappearing content can be a prime target for predators.

Q: How do I know if someone online is a friend or a predator?

R: A true friend is someone you know in real life and met in person first. True friendships can only be started by meeting and getting to know someone in person because in these scenarios, a trusted adult (like a parent, coach, or teacher) is always around and the person's identity can be verified. When it comes to the internet, we have to treat online friends differently and think of them as acquaintances. Always keep your personal information private, don't add them on a different platform than where you originally connected from, don't ever meet up with them in person, and make sure your trusted adults have access and are reviewing your conversations. It is also helpful to imagine whether the behaviours and messages from an online connection would be considered normal or odd coming from a stranger who approaches you in person. You can never really know if someone online is a true friend or if they are taking a longer time to build trust and groom you. Don't forget that real friends will respect your boundaries and your parents' rules, and they won't pressure or guilt you into sharing personal information or photos.

Q: What if I've been talking to someone online for months and nothing bad has happened? If anything, they have been super nice and caring.

R: When it comes to grooming, an online predator may spend months, or even a year, building trust before engaging in predatory behavior. Just because something bad has not happened yet, doesn't mean that it can't or won't happen. Ask yourself 'why would someone who doesn't know me care about me so much?'. Are they comforting you when you complain about people in your life like your parents or friends? Are they giving you a lot of compliments? Are they offering to help you get things that you want such as gaming tokens or a device? Nice does not always equal safe, which is why it is important to know the red flags of grooming online and in person, and to make sure you don't switch platforms, meet with someone in person, accept gifts, or share any personal information with someone online.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Create a chart listing common traits and behaviours of predatory people in different contexts.
- ▶ Create a red flag/green flag game where students guess which behaviour descriptions are predatory or healthy.
- ▶ Analyze current event case studies of predatory behaviour and discuss what made the individuals' actions exploitative (some articles provided below).
- ▶ Continue learning—build on the material from the previous chapters and introduce [Chapter 7: Human Trafficking](#) to show how grooming can turn into human trafficking, emphasizing the importance of recognizing and responding to these warning signs.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS



To access the following resources, scan the QR code or [click here](#).

More Videos

- ▶ Online Grooming
- ▶ Internet Safety Tips for Teens
- ▶ Social Media: Ways to Stay Healthy

Articles and Cases

**Please review beforehand and provide an age appropriate summary to students as well as a trigger warning of sexual assault*

- ▶ B.C. Man Sentenced for Sexual Assault of 13-year-old Girl
- ▶ Miranda Sings Youtube Star
- ▶ Marcus Hyde
- ▶ James Charles
- ▶ Group Grooming
- ▶ Omegle: Suing the website that matched me with my abuser

Other Educational Resources

- ▶ GetCyberSafe.Ca
- ▶ Zoe and Molly Online: When Online Games Get Weird

DISCLOSURES AND REPORTING

As a teacher, you may be one of the first trusted adults a student confides in about these topics. While some may be brief personal stories shared casually, others may require a more serious intervention.

- ▶ Be calm. Reacting with your own shock or disapproval creates further emotional distress.
 - ▶ Listen attentively and without interrupting the student.
 - ▶ Validate their feelings and acknowledge their courage in speaking up.
 - ▶ Avoid making any promises about keeping things confidential or how their parent/ guardian may react. Provide them with comfort that you will continue to be a support and be sensitive to their worries.
 - ▶ Ask them if anyone else knows about this already. If a trusted adult in their life already knows, you can simply engage in empathetic listening and ensure that you follow your school/organization's protocols. If a minor is currently at risk of harm or is being harmed, it is your duty to report it to your local child welfare services.
 - ▶ Document the disclosure per your school/ organization's best practices.
 - ▶ Provide continued support by checking in or providing them with other resources that are available to them.
- ▶ There may be times where a student does not feel comfortable coming forward or is not yet aware that they are experiencing a form of sexual exploitation. The following are signs to look out for as possible indicators:
 - Skipping class or school;
 - A change in grades or participation in classroom or school activities;
 - Appearing more tired than usual;
 - Device addiction;
 - Dressing more provocatively or having items they may not be able to afford;
 - Not hanging around their usual group of friends;
 - Isolating themselves;
 - Having profiles on apps that are not age appropriate;
 - Being involved in intimate image sharing; or
 - Having newfound mental health struggles.
 - ▶ If you notice any of these behaviours from a student, make sure to take note and voice your concerns to a school counsellor or administrator.

KIDS HELP PHONE (24/7)

- ▶ Call 1-800-668-6868
- ▶ Text "CONNECT" to 686868

NEEDHELPNOW.CA

- ▶ Help with removing sexual pictures/videos

CYBERTIP.CA

- ▶ Report about shared intimate images