

Chapter 4:

Exploiters and Predators

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 and exploitative people.

MAIN OBJECTIVES

- ▶ To provide students with an understanding of what constitutes predatory and exploitative behaviour.
- ▶ To equip students with the ability to identify indicators of predatory behaviour in-person and online.

CREATING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

- ▶ 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.
- ▶ Let your students know that if they feel triggered, they can leave the room and/or go speak with the 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.

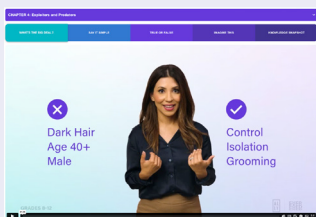
MODERATING DISCUSSIONS

- ▶ Ensure that all students have the opportunity to speak.
- ▶ Maintain a non-judgmental tone.
- ▶ 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

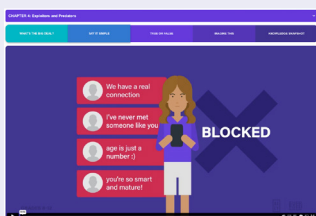
- ▶ A predator is simply a person who wants to sexually take advantage of a minor and has bad intentions towards them.
- ▶ An exploiter is someone who manipulates, forces, pressures, threatens or coerces a minor into engaging in sexual activity. An exploiter is one form of predator.
- ▶ Oftentimes, predatory and exploitative 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.
- ▶ At any moment, there are 750,000 predatory people online looking to connect with minors. (<https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/02/1084262>)
- ▶ 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 and exploiters are not defined by age or appearance but by their behavior. Red flags of someone acting predatory or exploitative include:
 - An age difference of 4+ years.
 - They pay for things outside of special occasions.
 - Being with them creates a need for secrecy from your parents.
 - They create division with the people you trust.
 - Love bombing.
 - They expect you to engage sexually early on (online or in-person).

FACILITATION TIPS FOR CHAPTER 4



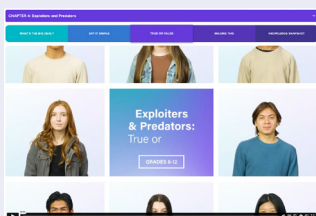
What's the Big Deal?

Encourage open discussion about the misconceptions surrounding predators. Ask questions like: What do you think are common misconceptions about predators? How can understanding the behavior rather than appearance help us stay safe?



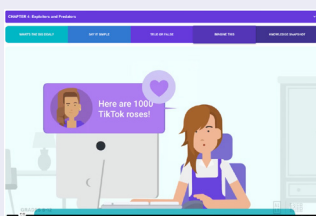
Say It Simple

Use this segment as an opportunity to discuss healthy boundaries with students. Ask questions like: How can you tell if someone is trying to manipulate you into doing something you're not comfortable with? What are some strategies for setting and maintaining boundaries in relationships?



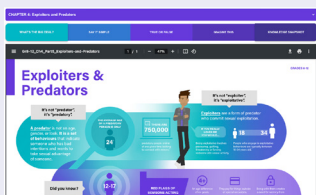
True or False

After the video, discuss the importance of trusting your instincts. Ask questions like: How can you differentiate between genuine interest and manipulative behavior? What role do instincts play in recognizing potentially dangerous situations?



Imagine This

Use this scenario as a starting point for discussing online safety. Ask questions like: What are some strategies for staying safe online? How can you differentiate between genuine connections and exploitative behavior in online interactions?



Knowledge Snapshot

Print out the Knowledge Snapshot as a reference for students to recognize red flags. Encourage them to share what they've learned with their peers and discuss ways to support each other in staying safe from exploitation.

FAQ'S AND RESPONSES TO GET YOU THINKING

Q: How do you know whether someone is being honest when they say things like “I’ve never met someone like you before” or “You’re so mature for your age”?

R: There are many questions you can ask to better understand whether these commonly known predatory statements are from someone who is safe and well-intentioned.

1. The first step is to always think about the motivation behind the behaviour. What is the intention behind these types of comments? Do they seem manipulative or trying to rush something?
2. Ask yourself, do you already have an established relationship with this person? When you set any boundaries or slow things down, do they try to push against them? What is your instinct and your body telling you?
3. Lastly, any comment about an existing age difference indicates that the older individual knows something is not truly healthy. When in doubt, always get a second opinion from someone you trust.

Q: How fast is too fast in an online relationship?

R: The best way to assess the pace of an online relationship is by comparing it to an in-person relationship. A healthy relationship, whether online or in person, takes time to develop. In-person, we spend time learning about each other and ensuring there is mutual trust, respect, and interest. The same principles apply online. Sexual activity in a relationship should take time to build up to if it happens at all. Due to the nature of the internet and the ease with which predatory people can pose as youth, it is crucial to take it slow, maintain boundaries, involve trusted adults, and prioritize your safety and well-being.

Q: Is an age difference always predatory?

R: It is not a definitive marker of predatory behaviour if it is within the legal guidelines, however, an age gap of even a few years creates plenty of power imbalance and vulnerability to exploitation. When two adults have an age difference, both will have their careers, the same level of status in society, financial stability, and access to resources such as ID or a vehicle. However, the same can not be said for anyone under the age of 18. Age differences can create unequal power dynamics where the younger partner feels pressured in their relationship. If there is a legal age difference, ask yourself if there is mutual respect, understanding and consent in the relationship. Additionally, always make sure you have the support and approval of a trusted parent or guardian.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Have students find examples of and analyze how predators and exploiters are portrayed in the media and whether they believe this is accurate.
- ▶ Create a chart listing common traits and behaviours of predatory or exploitative people in different contexts.
- ▶ 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 this chapter and introduce [Chapter 5: Internet Dynamics and Grooming](#) to understand tactics used by predatory people online to build trust and exploit vulnerabilities.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS



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

More Videos

- ▶ “Online Grooming”

Articles and Cases

**Please provide a trigger warning of sexual assault*

- ▶ B.C. Man Sentenced for Sexual Assault of 13-year-old Girl
- ▶ Miranda Sings Youtube Star
- ▶ Marcus Hyde

DISCLOSURES AND REPORTING

- ▶ By addressing these topics and opening up the space for discussion, an individual may feel safe to come forward with a disclosure
- ▶ It takes courage and a lot of trust in someone to share something like this. Thank them for sharing with you and trusting you with that information. Prove their trust right by being non-judgmental, and emotionally measured in your response. Acknowledge that it takes a lot of courage to come forward and that you are there to help in any way you can.
- ▶ Ask them if anyone else knows about this already. Find out what their needs are. Do they need an empathetic ear? Do they need assistance with reporting? Do they need to be connected with resources?
- ▶ Encourage them to report to a confidential and safe resource, or connect them with a counsellor. Have these resources prepared/ available ahead of time.
- ▶ If they are currently at risk of harm, let them know that it is your duty to report and that you can accompany them or find someone to support them during this process.
- ▶ 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.

CANADIAN HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE (24/7)

- ▶ Call 1-833-900-1010
- ▶ Live chat: <https://www.canadianhumantraffickinghotline.ca>

KIDS HELP PHONE (24/7)

- ▶ Call 1-800-668-6868
- ▶ Text “CONNECT” to 686868

CYBERTIP.CA

- ▶ National tipline for reports of online sexual exploitation of children