

GROOMING – WHAT IS IT?



FIRST PRINCIPLE

norfolk.police.uk/firstprinciple
suffolk.police.uk/firstprinciple

Top Tips

Apply offline child safety online
Blocking is better than removing a child's access to friends

Almost 9 out of 10 images shared by young people go on to be shared online

When things go wrong,
ZIP IT, FLAG IT, SAVE IT,
BLOCK IT

PREVENT CRIME

PROTECT COMMUNITIES



NORFOLK
CONSTABULARY
Our Priority is You



SUFFOLK
CONSTABULARY



NST CYBER

Grooming is the befriending of a child under the age of 16 for the purposes of meeting to engage in sexual activity.

This can happen over months, weeks or days. Often the culprit is an unknown adult with previous experience of manipulating children.

Some of the children most at risk include those who:

- have lived through significant changes in their home lives
- may be looking for an older role-model
- are vulnerable due to learning difficulties
- spend most of their social lives online

Children may meet groomers online through unsecured social media accounts, child 'dating' apps or via online gaming. Children who are regularly monitored or checked-on while doing these activities may be less likely to fall victim.

If you notice unusual behaviour in your child, if they try to hide things from you, or if any of the following sounds familiar, contact a Social Worker, your child's school or the police.

In a typical online grooming scenario, the suspect does three things:

They BEFRIEND

They BUY

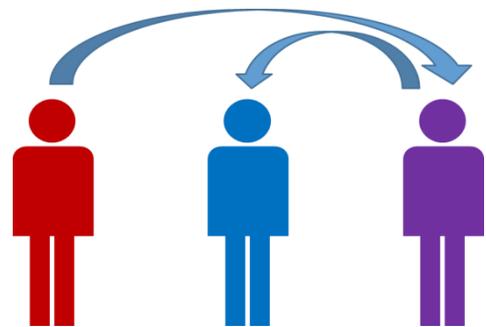
They BEG

If you notice any of the following, contact the police.



The Mutual Friend

An expert in grooming targets your child's friends first, hunting for the weak link in a group. Many children don't question mutual friend requests. Do they really know them?



A Good Understanding

They will claim an alleged mutual interest. Over time mutual understanding builds a level of trust. Who wouldn't trust someone with the same values?

Compliments

Everyone likes to be told they're beautiful, handsome, charming, funny, clever. They shower the child with compliments so they feel good.



Mysterious Gifts

A groomer will buy gifts, send the child clothes, a phone, money, in-game DLCs, etc. They might buy a gift and have it sent to their home address.



What Do They Want in Return?

When someone receives a gift, their natural reaction is to give back. What does the groomer want from the child? What is the child willing to do when asked or when guilt-tripped?

Alienation or Inclusion

Some will seek to alienate the child from their family and friends, leaving themselves as the final true friend.

Some will attempt to charm the parents and family of the child. If the family all like him, what's the danger?

Requests for Images

It might be considered a game, a laugh or it may be somehow downplayed by the groomer but they will eventually ask for photos, possibly indecent photos of the child.



Online Sexual Activity

The next step is mutual online sexual activity over voice or video calls. The child might be blackmailed due to sending a rude image before.

Arranging to Meet

Progressing from distant, online sexual activity, the groomer will suggest the next logical step, which is to meet up for sexual activity. The consequences of this could be very severe.

If you notice ANY of these signs, think...

DANGER!

First Principle: Related links

Check out all of our Crime Prevention information using the following links or by using the QR code to take you to the First Principle Pages Alternatively go to our website at <https://www.suffolk.police.uk/> and look in the 1st Principle A-Z of Crime Prevention.

Allotment Security
Anti-Social Behaviour
ATM Security
Beach Hut Security
Boat Security
Building Site Security
Business Security
Caravan Security
Caravan Storage
Card Security
Catalytic Converters
Church Security
Cold Callers
Commercial CCTV
Counterfeit Banknotes
County Lines Advice
for Landlords
Cyber Crime
Cycle Security
Dangerous Dogs
Dog Fouling
Dog Theft
Domestic CCTV
Domestic Violence
Farm Security
Fraud Prevention
Grooming
Hate Crime

Heating Oil
Home Improvements
Home Security
Home Security for
Tenants
Horses and Stables
Keyless Vehicles
Key Safe Security
Lock Snapping
Mopeds and Scooters
Motorcycle Security
Neighbour Disputes
Occupiers Liability
Personal Security
Power Tool Security
Products Brochure
Rural Crime
Security Alarms
Sheds and Garages
Social Media
Social Media for
Parents
Suspicious Behaviour
Shoplifting
Taxi Driver Safety
Vehicle Security
Windows and Doors



Other Links you might find helpful

Ask the Police
Secured by Design
Sold Secure

Crimestoppers
0800 555 111

Victim Care
0300 303 3705