



Be Alert To Common Tricks



Most child molesters are known to those they victimize in some capacity. In many cases the molesters are family members, friends, coaches, teachers, etc. Despite this circumstance, there are rare occasions when child molesters are not known to those they victimize. This flyer is intended to help keep children safe from potential molesters who are strangers.

THE BRIBE OR OFFER TRICK: The victim is offered something he or she might want. A young child might be offered candy or a toy; a teen might be offered money, free food, a ride, or a trip to some place novel or exciting. Sometimes a predator will take a valued belonging and then offer to return it only if the victim goes with the person or allows sexual contact.

THE ANIMAL TRICK: The child/teen is lured away from others by an invitation to play with or receive the gift of a cute or unusual animal.

THE EMERGENCY TRICK: A predator pretends that a fire, accident, illness, death, or some other emergency has happened to the victim's family, home, or friend. The person may also say there was a change in plans and he/she is to pick up the victim because the prearranged ride fell through.

THE HELP TRICK: The child/teen is asked for help: directions, to use the phone, to carry heavy bags, to search for someone or something lost, like a pet, child, or money.

THE FRIEND TRICK: The predator pretends to know the family and says that the child's parents have asked him/her to give the child a ride home. With teens, the predator may pretend to have a mutual friend to lure and separate the teen from others.

THE BAD CHILD TRICK: The predator accuses the child/teen of doing something wrong. The child/teen is ordered to go with the person. Sometimes a real-looking badge or ID is shown as fake proof of the predator's official status. Sometimes a child/teen will be convinced by someone they trust that his/her parents do not want

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