

# Grooming Behaviors In Child Sex Offenders



## 1. Gaining Trust

It is extremely important for the offender to gain the trust of the potential victim. Some of the methods for gaining trust include:

- Giving presents
- Spending additional time with the potential victim
- Assuring them that their behaviors are appropriate and they will not be hurt

## 2. Favoritism

This process involves placing the potential victim in a position as "favorite." At some juncture in this process, the perpetrator makes it apparent to the potential victim that they will be expected to reciprocate

## 3. Alienation

In a family situation, this process generally develops from the offender and victim's sharing and trust building which isolates them from the rest of the family.

## 4. Secrecy

Once trust is established, secrecy becomes easier to accomplish. It is at this stage that the offender will point out to the potential victim that their relationship is "special" and that others would not understand. Therefore, it is necessary to keep it a secret.

## 5. Boundary Violations

This can occur as early as infancy. It is most noticeable in bathing, dressing, bathroom behavior, and in conversation.