

4 Stages of sexual exploitation

There are usually 4 stages leading to sexual exploitation. Exploiters will use different tactics to gain trust and build a relationship with a young child before they attempt to exploit them. This process can take a long time – months and even years, or it can be very short – within weeks. Sometimes, the parents may also be involved, as the exploiter will try to gain their trust as well.

Luring

Targeting and communicating with a child for the purpose of exploiting them.

Tactics: building a connection, identifying, and fulfilling a child's needs, wants, and desires.

Grooming

The exploiter will gain a child's trust and develop a codependent bond with them (and sometimes with the adults in the child's life) for the purpose of exploiting the child.

Tactics: gifting, love bombing, making false promises.

Recruitment

The process whereby exploiters seek out and target a young person to be manipulated / forced / lured into sexual exploitation.

Tactics: hosting all age parties, peer recruitment, isolation from friends and family, gang links to exploitation.

Control

Exploiters will control their victims and prevent them from coming forward on their own.

Tactics: threats, violence, extreme manipulation.

If you or someone you know is being exploited, please contact us by phone 604 777 7510 or by email info@childrenofthestreet.com. You can also send a message to our confidential text line at 604 866 6799.