

# **Common Tricks used by Predators**

## **Bribe or Trick**

The victim is offered something he or she might want. A young child might be offered candy, a toy, or gum. A teen might be offered money, free food, a ride, or trip to some place exciting. Sometimes a person 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 person is lured away from others by an invitation to play with or receive a gift of a puppy or kitten, or some other cute or unusual animal.

## **The Emergency Trick**

A person pretends that a fire, accident, illness, death, or some other emergency has happened to the victim's family, home, or friend. The person then says there was a change in plans, and he/she was to pick them up because the prearranged ride was cancelled.

## **The Help Trick**

Someone asks the child or teen for help. They may ask for directions, to use the phone, to carry heavy bags, or to search for someone or something lost, like a pet, child, or money.

## **The Friend Trick**

A person pretends to know the family and says the child's parents have asked them to come and give the child a ride home.

## **The Bad Child Trick**

A person 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.

## **The Flattery Trick**

Posing as a photographer, a person might ask the victim to go with them, so pictures or a video can be taken.

## **The Open the Door Trick**

The person tricks the victim into opening the house door or car door. The person might look like a repair person, or says they need to use the phone, or deliver a package, or needs help or directions. Sometimes a minor car accident is staged to get the victim to pull the car over and open the car door.

## **The Secret Trick**

Sometimes victims are warned to keep physical and sexual harassment or assault a secret. Often the victimization continues because the victim is afraid these threats might be true.

## **Networking Trick**

Children and teens have been lured into dangerous situations by people using computer online services to make contact. The communication usually start as a harmless exchange; then the predator asks for a face-to-face meeting, or the messages become increasingly sexual in content.