

# 5 WARNING SIGNS OF GROOMING



## Age Difference

Even a 2-3 year age difference matters. Exploiters will use their age to create a power imbalance as they have access to money, alcohol, and transportation. Age difference can also be used to normalize unhealthy behaviours.



## Gifting

In grooming relationships, youth are spoiled with things they can not normally afford themselves such as: cell phones, puppies, salon services, drugs, etc. Gifting is done to create a debt down the road or to lure a youth into false promises of a better lifestyle.



## Isolation

Isolation may be physical or emotional. Exploiters may convince a youth that they are not understood by their parents or friends. They may try and limit the time the youth spends with their peers. Exploiters may also try to lure a youth out of their community or home.



## Lifestyle Changes

Any change in a youth's life is a lifestyle change. A youth being groomed may skip school, be tired from late nights, party more often, start developing drug addiction, hanging around with a different and older peer group.



## Gut Feeling

If something feels off, it probably is. Listen to your gut feeling and reach out to a resource to confirm whether your concerns are valid.

Exploiters and pimps will try to pose as boyfriends or friends in order to groom youth. Not all warning signs during grooming happen at once. Grooming can take up to 2 years. If you are concerned, reach out to SEE or a resource you know.