



SPOTLIGHT – Grooming behaviors are the steps an abuser takes to win the trust of kids and their families over time to set the stage for sexual abuse. Expensive gifts, special treatment, testing boundaries, checking reactions, isolation, unsafe secrets, and unsafe touches are red flags of grooming.

KEY VOCABULARY

- **Grooming:** The process an abuser uses to build trust, test boundaries, manipulate, and draw someone into a secret relationship for the purpose of abusing them
- **Isolation:** To separate from others
- **Unsafe Secrets:** Secrets that make you feel uncomfortable or confused and you are told not to tell. However, an unsafe secret must be told until you are heard and helped
- **Unsafe Touches:** A touch that hurts you, makes you feel uncomfortable, or makes you feel confused