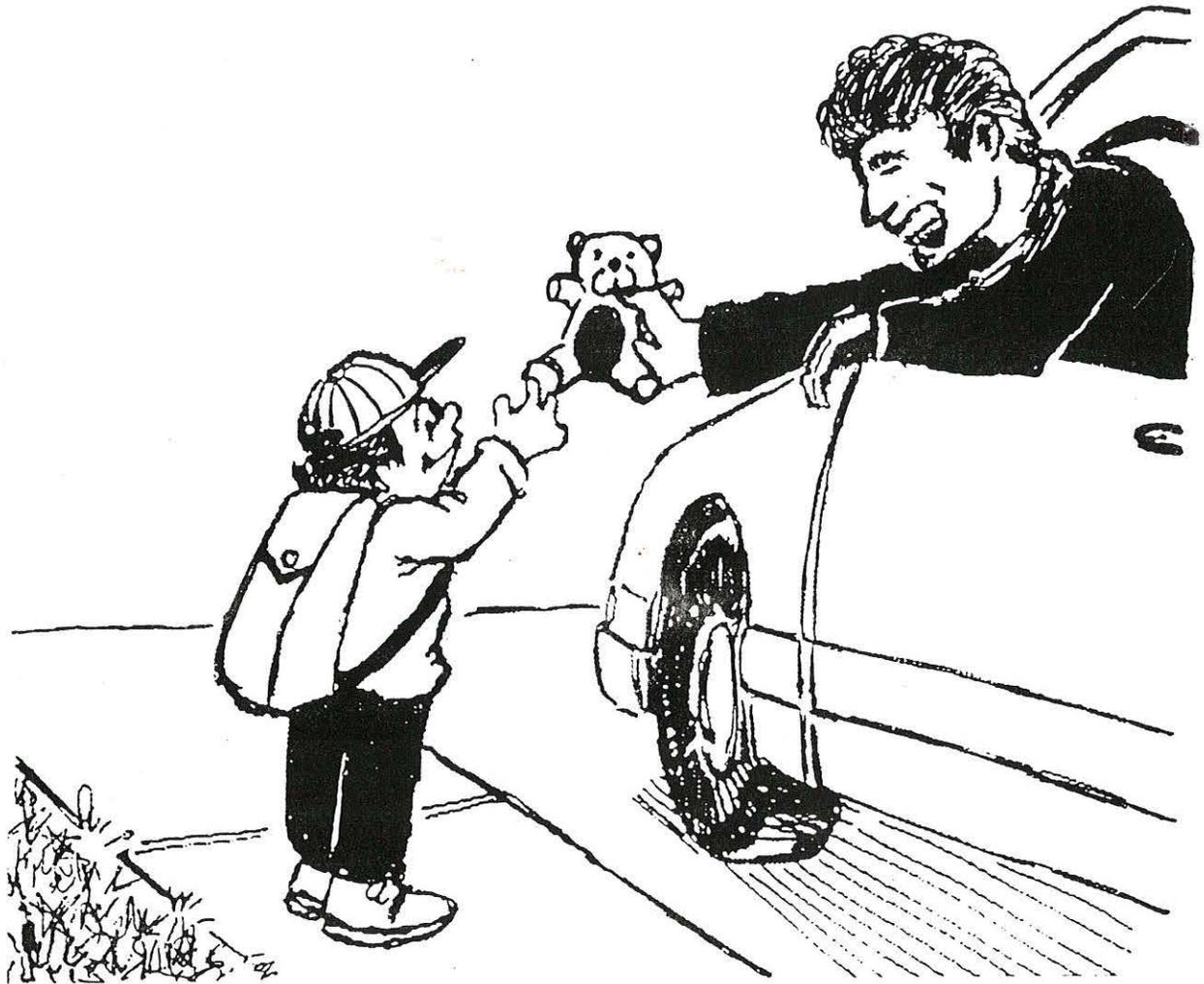


STREET SAFE KIDS

Protecting children from sexual predators – a street-proofing manual



“Street Safe Kids” is one of the most comprehensive self-defense and street-proofing courses available. We strongly recommend that parents enroll their children in this ‘hands-on’ program.”

Mabyn Armstrong, director of prevention
The Missing Children’s Network Canada

George J. Manoli

How Pedophiles Lure Our Children



Despite the years that I have been a police officer, I still can't get over how remarkably creative, and extremely effective, these child molesters are at luring our children in order to get physically close to them. What starts off as normal behavior or a seemingly harmless request, turns out to be a cleverly designed enticement or trap to confuse the child's natural protective instincts. Due to children's natural innocence, kindness, and friendliness these abduction lures have been shown to generally take under one minute to accomplish and without a great deal of effort from the assailant. Discuss with your child the following lures used by people to abduct and molest children. Remember: safety education must be age appropriate, fun and taught in a gradual process, so don't overkill on the first discussion session. Give yourself a time frame of, say, one month to thoroughly cover five to ten lures from a variety of approaches.

- 1. *Lured by affection and attention* :** Children starved for affection like those from broken or unhappy homes make the easiest targets for being lured by love, affection and attention. Molesters admit these children are easy to seduce because they are so "starved for affection." In some documented cases, the child is lured and seduced just like one adult seduces another.
- 2. *Lured into assisting the molester* :** The child is simply asked for directions to a street, school, store or restaurant. Some kids are lured into helping the abductor find a lost puppy or kitten; or to assist in carrying an armload of packages or letters to a car, house or mailbox. The methods used are unlimited and are meant to lure the child away from safety. Some abductors go to great lengths in preparing their scenario, by pretending to be physically or mentally disabled and in great need of a helping hand.
- 3. *Lured by an authoritative figure* :** We mistakenly teach our children to respect and blindly obey adults. Molesters and child abductors take advantage of that respect and obedience and use their authoritative positions to disarm and seduce children. In certain cases, the offender takes advantage of his authoritative power over his victims while in others he takes advantage of a position of special trust granted to them. Some authoritative positions used were: coaches, teachers, clergy, scout leaders, police officers, etc.
- 4. *Lured by bribery and rewards* :** Believe it or not, we see this age-old lure work time and time again, no matter how many times we repeat to our young ones not to accept things from strangers. Young children are lured with candy, toys, pups, and other rewards or gifts in exchange for sexual favors. Older kids, on the other hand, are often tempted with money, jobs, alcohol, drugs, etc.

How Pedophiles lure our children

5. **Lured by an emergency** : This lure is specifically designed to confuse, disorient and worry the child. Some examples of emergency lures:

- ➔ "Your mom just got into an accident and was taken to the hospital. Come with me quickly. I will bring you to her."
- ➔ "Your dad had a heart attack and your mom sent me to bring you straight to the hospital so you can be with them. Quickly, hop in."

6. **Lured by fun and games** : What seems to be innocent play between an adult and a child often leads to intimate body contact. Fun and games can include such things as tickling, wrestling, hiding under the covers, make-believe role-playing, hiding the quarter in your clothes, etc.

7. **Lured by ego/fame** : Sometimes children are promised all kinds of things like modeling jobs, a chance to compete in beauty contests, or to star in commercials, etc. The child is led to believe that this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and a private audition is set up, requesting the child to keep it a secret from family members. Photography and filming sessions often begin harmlessly; then slowly but surely escalate into kiddie porn, pornography and seduction.

8. **Lured by name recognition** : We personalize our children's clothes, lunch boxes, shoes, etc. with their names, telephone numbers, etc. This enables the molester or abductor to engage the targeted child in conversation, thus catching him or her off-guard and disarming them.

9. **Lured by jobs** : Older children are often lured by promises of high-paying or interesting jobs. Once again the child molester or abductor seeks intimacy with the child and therefore schedules interviews in secluded locations or advertises the job using only a post office box number. The child is requested to inform no one of this unique high paying job and many times ends up in a very dangerous situation.



10. **Lured by threats, fear and blackmail** : Many child molesters use threats or blackmailing techniques in order to get children to cooperate by keeping the 'secret'. Examples of threatening or blackmailing suggestions are: "If you tell your mother or father, they won't love you any more," "You started all this, and if you tell you will go to jail," "If you tell anyone what we did, I'm going to kill your mother and father as well as your dog."

"Once the child has been placed in a compromising situation - sexually or otherwise - the offender can obtain some control over the child by threatening exposure...Threats may be expressed or implied by the offender or may be developed by the child with no direct threats being made." (Not My Child, Jan Wagner, 1994).

11. ***Lured by other children*** : Children who are themselves victims of sexual abuse are often encouraged by the molesters to lure other children into the abusive situation.
12. ***Lured by heroes*** : Some molesters exploit children's innocence by using such disguises as clowns, magicians, Santa Claus, superheroes, etc. "Such tricks, gimmicks and magic normally culminate in molestation."
13. ***Lured by magic and rituals*** : Older children are fascinated by such things. Younger children are at times terrified by such experiences.

"Sophisticated and destructive ritual abuse is emerging under the guise of magic and Satanism. Inconceivable as it seems, many children including preschoolers, are being targeted at critical stages of their physical and psychological development and subjected to ritual abuse, mostly sexual. These children are then threatened with death or dismemberment to themselves, parents, or pets if they disclose the abuse...Brainwashing and repeated abuse systematically deprive children of self-esteem, love, family protection, and religious beliefs. In time, the victim may become the abuser." (Child Lures, K.Wooden, 1986).
14. ***Lured by pornography*** : Another way molesters use to seduce and destroy the innocence of childhood is through both adult and child pornography. Exposing children to pornographic material may lead to precocious sexual behavior. The pornography can be used to stimulate the child's interest in sexual activity, lower their inhibitions and display the acts in which the offender wishes to engage. A four or five-year-old will often imitate and act out sex acts they have viewed in pornographic videos or magazines.
15. ***Lured by drugs and alcohol*** : Drugs are a dead-end street. They destroy lives and destroy a person's ability to make good choices. Drugs are often used to manipulate a child into having sex. In some cases drugs are also used to force the child into prostitution, pornography or lure them into the criminal element of the occult. Alcohol is mostly used to lure older children and is occasionally seen used on younger children.