



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

# KEEP OUR CHILDREN SAFE

## Preventing Child Abuse YMCA OF THE SUNCOAST

The YMCA of the Suncoast takes the prevention of child abuse very seriously, and understands that child abuse and inappropriate contact of children must be managed in a proactive manner.

### **GROOMING: WHAT SHOULD I KNOW?**

Most abusers use a subtle and gradual process known as “grooming” children and families to gain access to, and control of, children. Grooming is typically done slowly to lure and manipulate children into abuse.

On the surface, grooming can appear quite innocent and may even give the perception that the individual works well with children.

Everyone must become familiar with and watchful for common grooming techniques, such as:

- Befriending the youngster and their family to slowly gain trust
- Giving gifts, money, trips and/or permitting special favors for the youth
- Encouraging harmless secrets, laying the foundation for future secrets
- Taking pictures or videos of the child
- Communicating with the child excessively; texting, emailing or calling
- Making alcohol/drugs available to the youth
- Desensitizing the child through nonsexual touching, “accidental” touching of privates and/or walking in on bathroom or dressing time.
- Playing body games with children like tickling, back rubs or wrestling
- Introducing pornography to initiate sexual interest or normalize the behavior



**KNOW**



**SEE**



**RESPOND**

**YMCA OF THE SUNCOAST**  
2469 Enterprise Rd.  
Clearwater, FL 33763  
ymcasuncoast.org  
727.467.9622