

## Red Flags: Access, Privacy, and Control

Child molesters need three things to operate: **access, privacy, and control**. There are usually specific red flags displayed when an adult is trying to gain access, privacy, and control.

Look for the following red flags:

### ACCESS

- Finds jobs and does volunteer work to be around children.
- Takes lower paying or less responsible positions just to be around kids.
- Befriends single parents and spends lots of time with the kids.
- Goes above and beyond the call of duty to spend extra time with kids.
- Breaks rules to be around kids.
- Grooms parents and community into permitting increased access to children.

### PRIVACY

- Looks for opportunities to be alone with children, such as taking them to the bathroom; offering private lessons, rides, or tutoring; meeting in private spaces out of the sight of others; or staying late on a job or premises where there are children.
- Ignores policies and breaks rules regarding privacy with children.
- Discourages other adults from participating in or monitoring his or her activities with children.
- Communicates privately with children via e-mail messages, instant messages, texting, or social networking sites such as MySpace or Facebook.

### CONTROL

- Becomes overly physical or becomes progressively more physically inappropriate.
- Spends too much time with a child or is overly involved in the child's private life.
- Encourages children to break or "stretch" rules (smoking, drinking, looking at pornography, using drugs).
- Gives special gifts, especially without permission.
- Treats children as if they were peers (uses inappropriate language or swears, tells off-color jokes, talks to kids about personal topics).
- Wants to keep secrets with children.
- Threatens or intimidates a child.