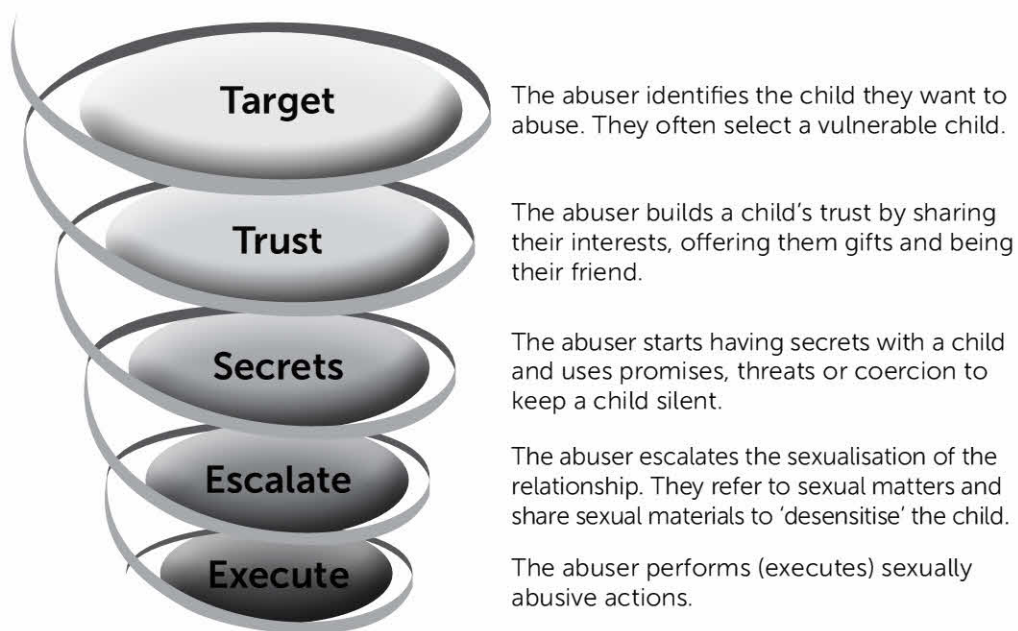


# How do child sex abusers operate?

Abusers use many ways to access and abuse children.

People often think that child sexual abuse occurs as a random attack by a stranger. Actually, it is common that an abuser and/or an intermediary will spend time building a relationship with the child (and sometimes their family). This process is known as “grooming” and can involve a number of steps:



Not all abusers use grooming techniques. Other ways include sudden attack, procurement, deceit and manipulation, and coercion.

Often abusers do not act alone. They may be aided or supported by another person such as assistants, procurers, agents, intermediaries, and facilitators.