

## Why don't children tell?

Children are manipulated into secrecy. The child will feel unable to tell. The offender may tell the child that if they tell, something terrible will happen, such as the family will fall apart. Through manipulation, the offender will make the child feel like they allowed the abuse to happen, particularly if the child enjoyed the attention that come with the grooming. Children will end up feeling “dirty” and very ashamed, and will blame themselves for the sexual abuse.

## Statements that may be used by offenders to manipulate the child:

- ❖ You are so special. We have fun together, don't we? I won't hurt you.
- ❖ This is our special secret – no one else can share it. It's normal; it is part of growing up and being loved.
- ❖ If you love me, you will do this for me. Think of all the things I do for you.
- ❖ If you tell your mum she will get really ill and she may not get better.
- ❖ If you tell, I will get rid of the kitten I bought you last week.
- ❖ Who would believe you, you are just a little girl, you're always making up stories.
- ❖ No one else cares where you are or what you do. I love you, if you tell on me you have no-one at all.
- ❖ No one else understands our love.

## Offender Manipulates the Child by:

