

Cyber Predators Communication Tools

Predators typically go through communication development with their victims as they aim to develop a trusting relationship. Through a variety of means and methods, predators work to develop a bond with their victims and establish a trusting relationship in a seemingly innocent progression.

1. Chat Rooms

Many predators lurk in chat rooms. They scan screen names and profiles, weeding out potential victims and identifying specific characteristics for each. They model their own screen names and profiles to lure students into conversations.

2. Private Chat Rooms

An invitation to a private chat room is not uncommon and predators make use of this. They are isolating their prey from the herd and initiating a relationship.

3. Instant Messaging

IM offers a predator even more privacy. Predators will attempt to move the relationship to this level. But students need to realize, IM may be the starting point. Predators research profiles and can IM those they find appealing and have made themselves accessible.

4. Email

The next stepping-stone involves email. Email ensures longer, more sustained communication and allows a connection when not simultaneously logged-in or signed-on.

5. Phone

The power and intimacy involved in hearing someone's voice should not be underestimated. At this point, our predator has established a level of trust only enhanced by the telephone. To build a stronger relationship and to gain the trust of these students, many predators call their victims.

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