

GROOMING 2.0

How Predators Use Technology to Counterfeit Connection

Grooming rarely starts with obvious danger. It often begins with attention, affirmation, curiosity, and connection.

Predators use those normal needs to build trust through digital spaces parents may overlook. And it does not always happen on a “bad app.” It often happens through everyday tools and shared platforms that seem harmless at first.

These are some of the newer pathways parents need to watch.

01	▶ GOOGLE DOCS & SLIDES <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comment threads and shared files can be used like private conversations• “Group project” invitations can create direct access that feels normal or school-related
02	▶ SPOTIFY PLAYLISTS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collaborative playlists can be used to send messages through song titles or themes• What looks like music sharing can become emotional bonding and private communication
03	▶ SHARED PHOTO ALBUMS (IPHONE/GOOGLE PHOTOS) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shared iPhone or Google photo albums can be used to exchange attention-based images• Many parents monitor texts and apps, but rarely check shared album activity
04	▶ HOMEWORK + STUDY APPS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Messaging features inside learning platforms can create unmonitored contact• Quizlet, Kahoot, Canva, and class-based group chats may give predators or peers access that flies under the radar• School-related spaces can feel safe simply because they appear educational
05	▶ GAMING “FRIEND REQUESTS” <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Friend requests often open the door to ongoing private conversation• Predators use shared interests, teamwork, rewards, and compliments to build trust over time• What begins in a game can quickly move into private messaging or off-platform contact

A FAITH-BASED DIGITAL DISCERNMENT TOOL FOR KIDS

Teach your child to slow down, think clearly, and bring what they experience into the light.

- **STOP** — Does this feel sudden, pressuring, or confusing?
- **ASK** — Is this drawing me toward truth or toward secrecy?
- **TELL** — Who is one trusted adult I can bring this to right now?
- **TRUST** — God gives wisdom, and we do not have to navigate confusing situations alone.

QUESTIONS THAT HELP PARENTS UNCOVER GROOMING EARLY

- Who contacted you this week that surprised you?
- Has anyone asked you to move a conversation to another app or private space?
- Is anyone giving you attention that feels confusing or hard to explain?
- Which online spaces feel peaceful, and which ones feel pressuring?
- Has anyone asked you to keep a conversation, message, or connection private?



This is *not* about panic. It is about discernment, connection, and helping children recognize the difference between real care and counterfeit attention.