



YELLO DYNO'S 8 Red Flags for Identifying Child Predators (one kind of *Tricky Person*)

Become a detective:

A tracker in the forest will see evidence of over 20 animals, whereas the average person may see evidence of only a few. Why? Training. For example, broken branches in a particular pattern indicate that a wild pig recently went crashing through the bush. This special knowledge helped our forefathers survive.

Like these nature detectives, parents, guardians and teachers today must become detectives of another sort. They must become knowledgeable about the behaviors of the *Tricky People* who prey on our children. Remember, *Tricky People* conceal their behavior well. **Teach children about *Tricky People*: It's not what people look like, their age, or if you know them-- it's what they ask you TO DO that matters.** (Children learn to recognize deceptive behavior patterns.)

Another way to use Yello Dyno's 8 Red Flags is to turn the statements into questions to find out if a child might be in danger. For example: Ask the child (or the mom), "Is there a much older child or an adult who spends lots of time with you?" If you find two or three of the 8 Red Flags fit a situation then you need to take a closer look.



If someone enjoys being with your child more than you do.



A person engages in activities that involve only him/herself and your child. Activities that do not require others to be present.



A much older child or adult spends excessive amounts of time with your child.



A person is preoccupied with and /or often stares at your child.



Your child has new toys or gifts that you did not buy.



Your child speaks knowledgeably of places and/or activities that you did not introduce to him or her.



A person continually offers to care for your child to give you a "breather" or time to yourself. (He/she often does not want any payment for watching your child.)



A person comes to your house regularly to spend time with or transport your child to activities.

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IMPORTANT!

The idea here is to identify inappropriate behavior, and remove the prey (your child) from a possible predator. You should not accuse, condemn, or attack a suspected predator. Be very, very careful. This knowledge is not a "call to arms," but rather a means of avoiding problems by (again) removing your child from the situation. We repeat, be extremely careful not to make accusations. Get help from law enforcement, social services, or professionals trained to deal with these problems.

If you suspect something, you shouldn't be afraid to report it. If you do not report it, or try to do something on your own, you may, at the very least, hurt the case. Child predators quite commonly keep diaries and photos. If they are alerted before the proper authorities can legally approach them, valuable incriminating evidence is likely to be lost.