

Forward - by Cory Jewell Jensen, M.S.
Co-Director, Center for Behavioral Intervention.

Research indicates that one in six children will be sexually abused. The offenders will be someone close; a relative, family friend or one of the many professionals or volunteers our children come in contact with every day. Someone we would never suspect and someone our child might even love or depend on.

One of the reasons so many children are abused is that offenders work just as hard to deceive us as they do to manipulate and trick our children into "going along with it and keeping quiet." Their tactics work so well that only 5% to 15% of child victims tell anyone what is happening and fewer than 5% of sex offender are prosecuted for their crimes. Think about it, child sexual abuse usually occurs in the context of a close and trusting relationship. Plus, sex offenders like children and are good at getting children to like them. They play the games children like to play, cuddle with them in front of the television and read bedtime stories to them. Next, they "test and push the limits" by groping children while "wrestling and tickling them." They "desensitize" children to more intimate behavior by "accidentally" walking in on them while they are changing clothes, taking a shower, using the bathroom, or they "forget to turn the computer off and let them see pornography." They take advantage of children's affectionate and trusting nature or exploit their natural curiosity or lack of information about sex. They trick children into thinking that what's happening is "ok," "just a game," or something "they will like." They are clever enough to "move slow" and "make it feel good" because they know that scaring or hurting children physically is more likely to result in a disclosure. Offenders also tell us that children are usually "easy" to manipulate and coerce into believing they "went along with it" and "might get in trouble for it too if they tell."

It's easy to understand how an offender might see a child as "no match" for them but most adults are just as easy to fool. Most report that they were able to talk other adults into not believing children and, more than half of the offenders we surveyed one year said they had even been able to talk another adult out of calling the police, even when they knew the offender was guilty. Worst yet, most went on to abuse more children.

We must do better. Child safety is an adult responsibility and not something we can expect children to navigate. As parents, we make sure our children wear seat belts and bike helmets, brush their teeth and wear sunscreen. We talk to them about drugs, guns and bullying. Why then, it is so hard to talk to them about sexual abuse or fall back on models that don't work like "stranger danger" or "good touch/bad touch."

By taking the time to learn more accurate information about sex offenders and effective prevention strategies you will be joining a growing number of adults who are becoming better educated about child sexual abuse and the ways in which we can protect our children. Learn what you should know and do before a sex offender is the person teaching your child about abuse. No one can protect your children better than you!

Don't let a child molester do it for you!



Protecting Your Children: Advice From Child Molesters

This brochure was developed by a group of child molesters who were in treatment at the Center for Behavioral Intervention. The brochure was prepared as part of a community service project. Comments and advice were collected in an effort to "be part of the solution."

CBI Consulting, Inc.

Cory Jewell Jensen, M.S.
coryjjensen@gmail.com

Who Are the Child Molesters?

You think you know me well, you don't.
I am you husband, your father, your brother.
I am your wife, your mother, your sister.
I am someone's son or daughter. Someone raised me.
They did not intend for me to grow up to be a sex offender.
They would be shocked, if they knew.
I go to your church, work in the next office, shop in the same stores,
I am stable, employed and respectable. I pay my bills and my taxes.
My education and intelligence don't stop me from molesting your children.
You and your children like me. I am good with children.

How Child Molesters Gain Access to Your Children:

It's easy. I pay attention to your children and make them feel special.
I present the appearance of being someone you can trust and rely on.
I get to know your child's likes and dislikes.
I go out of my way to buy gifts or treats your child will like.
I isolate your child by involving them in fun activities

Why Don't Child Molesters Get Caught?

I like children & I am sexually aroused by children.
I trick myself into thinking it's not a big deal.
If I have enough practice I can become very skillful.
I am a good liar.
I make it look like an "accident" a "mistake" or a "misunderstanding." It isn't.
I use situations like tucking them in at night or touch them while they are sleeping.
I desensitize children to nudity. I leave the bathroom door open so they can see me.
I confuse them by telling them that "all families do this" but I know they don't.
After I start abusing them I will be able to maintain the child's cooperation and silence.
I make them feel responsible for what I'm doing.
I make them distrust you.
Sometimes they hide what I'm doing to them because they love me and I make it "fun."
I offer them special things they can't get otherwise so they feel like they need me.
I make them think you won't believe them.
I warn them that they will be the one who gets punished. I might threaten them.
I tell them they will be put in foster care and won't get to see you again.
I tell them that I will go to prison and it will hurt their family if I have to go away.
I make them feel sorry for me so they will protect my secret.
I do not care that my behavior is hurting your child.
Once I start, I will not stop. I will continue until you stop me by calling the police.

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Advice From Child Molesters

I am someone you know, but you don't really know me. I hide who I am.	Tell them it's always the bigger person's fault and they will not get in trouble.
The prevention program at school won't be enough.	Tell them that people with touching problems try to trick children.
Do your part, talk to your children yourself. Prepare them.	Tell them that people who do "secret touching" have a problem like stealing and lying. Don't confuse your child by calling it a sickness or a disease.
I will make it hard for your child to tell you what I'm doing. Make it easier for them. Communicate, listen and believe.	What I do is sick, but it's not a sickness, it's selfishness.
Trust your child, not me.	Tell your child that if they can't tell you, they should tell another adult.
They deserve your trust, I don't.	Get to know your child's friends and families.
Teach your child about sexuality.	Be wary of older children who always seem to play with younger children.
If you don't teach them, I might.	Be suspicious of teens or adults who want to spend time alone with your child.
Watch for symptoms of sexual abuse, but watch me even closer.	Trust your instincts. If something doesn't seem right, investigate further.
Give your children specific information about private parts and "secret touching."	Learn about the prevention program your schools uses and discuss it with your family.
Tell them it's never ok for someone to touch them or for someone to ask to be touched.	Have "safety talks" a couple times a year.
Tell them it's not ok to look at other people's private parts or show theirs to other people.	Make sure your children know that I hide on the Internet. Teach them how to avoid me.
Tell them they are not supposed to look at pictures of people who aren't wearing clothes.	Check up on them. Keep the computer in the kitchen.
Tell them if someone shows them naked pictures or naked movies to tell you.	



Frequently described as a “engaging and entertaining,”

Cory Jewell Jensen provides exceptionally informative and interactive workshops on sex offender etiology (the development of pedophilia), “cross-over” or crime switching behavior among offenders, incident vs detection rates, polygraph studies related to the typical chronicity of offending prior to apprehension, detailed accounts of the grooming strategies offenders use to seduce both children and adults, and suggestions for risk management and prevention. Her workshops incorporate videos and offender quotes to help judges, prosecutors, detectives, child/victim advocates, churches and youth serving organizations better understand offender behavior and improve investigative, prosecutorial, child welfare and youth service efforts. She has provided more than 500 workshops in the United States and Europe and is a highly sought after speaker.

Workshops for Professional Groups

(Judges, Prosecutors, Law Enforcement, Child Protective Service Workers, Forensic Interviewers, CASA and Child/Victim Advocates).

Sex Offenders: What Judges, Lawyers, Investigators and Child Advocates Should Know.

This presentation highlights (via video taped interviews with various sex offenders) some of the common pathways to developing deviant sexual interests and the accompanying “pro-offending attitudes” that result in criminal sexual behavior. Multiple polygraph studies will also be reviewed to underscore the various types (cross-over offending) and vast number of undetected crimes offenders typically engage in prior to apprehension. Misconceptions about “re-offense” versus “recidivism” rates and the expected outcomes for sex offender treatment will also be reviewed.

Selection, Engagement and Seduction of Children and Adults by Child Molesters

Participants will examine some of the specific strategies offenders report using to target, seduce and exploit children and adults. Information was collected from approximately 1,600 sex offenders who were involved in long-term court mandated sex offender treatment. Topics include offender descriptions of “grooming” tactics i.e., how and why they targeted certain children, families and youth serving agencies, seduced child victims and adult caretakers, and inhibited disclosure, detection and reporting. A variety of video clips, research studies and anecdotal interview data from numerous sex offenders will be utilized to illustrate each stage of grooming behavior

Decision Making in Cases of Child Sex Abuse:

How and When to Allow Sex Offenders to Live with Children.

Many of our current child welfare practices and family reunification policies are being challenged by new information about “cross-over” sexual crimes among sex offenders, “re-offense” vs. “recidivism” rates, expected treatment outcomes and long-term risk management. This presentation will provide participants with a review of recent findings as they relate to family decision making, contact between sex offenders and children and, family reunification. Recommendations for “case by case classification” and case planning are outlined.

What Sex Offenders Can Teach Us About Interviewing

This presentation examines the relationship between confession rates and sex offender characteristics (i.e., offender age, relationship to victim, personality type, offense history and prior experience with the criminal justice system). In addition, several studies that examined the effectiveness of interview style (investigator demeanor and approach) will be reviewed. Lastly, the presenter will provide anecdotal comments (from 121 admitting adult male sex offenders) related to the thoughts and concerns they had while they were initially being interviewed



by detectives. Comments focus on the reason they declined to be interviewed, lied about offending, or confessed. Video clips will be used to illustrate some of the specific skills used by police to enable offenders to confess, along with recommendations for specific interview questions from highly experienced child abuse detectives.

“Protecting our Children: Advice From Child Molesters:” Oregon’s Innovative Approach to Child Safety and Crime Prevention.

Participants will have an opportunity to review Oregon’s grassroots prevention project – “Protecting Your Children: Advice From Child Molesters.” Initially developed by two veteran sex offender treatment providers, “PYC” has grown into a multi-state, multi-disciplinary child abuse prevention campaign. The project was designed to educate parents, youth service staff, educators, community volunteers and the faith community about child sexual abuse, offender behavior, risk management and effective prevention strategies. Workshops challenge public misperceptions about children’s ability to protect themselves and promote the idea that all adults must be informed and take an active role in promoting child safety. Information about offender grooming behavior, Internet crimes, victim advocacy, reporting, sexual behavior between children and talking to children about child sexual abuse are covered. Project benefits include jury education and early identification of youthful offenders.

Workshops for Parent and Community Groups:

Protecting Your Children: “Advice From Child Molesters.”

Topics Covered:

- Extent of the problem— who the offenders are and why they molest children
- Common seduction, manipulation and “grooming” tactics used by offenders.
- Problems associated with traditional prevention programs.
- Talking to children about abuse and people with “secret touching problems.”
- Practical child and family “rules” for safety.
- Responding to sex-abuse disclosures and reporting child abuse.

Workshops for the Faith Community:

Sex Offenders in the Faith Community: Keeping Children, Schools and Churches Safe.

Workshop Topics:

- How and why adults sexually abuse children.
- Common seduction or, “grooming tactics” used by offenders.
- Traits of offenders who specifically prey on churches and schools.
- Some of the factors that make churches particularly vulnerable.
- Common mistakes churches make.
- Develop reasonable child safety policies.
- Suggestions for safety planning with “known” offenders.
- Developing risk management committees and “accountability partners.”
- Responding to sex-abuse disclosures and reporting child abuse.
- Specialized prevention and “staff development” training programs for employees, volunteers and parents.
- Addressing the growing number of offenders living in our community.

Author, Consultant and Trainer, Cory Jewell Jensen, M.S.

Previously the Co-Director of the Center for Behavioral Intervention, Cory Jewell Jensen, M.S., provided evaluation and treatment services to adult sex offenders and their families for 34 years. In addition to her clinical work, Ms. Jensen provided training and consultation to The National Center for the Prosecution of Child Abuse, The National Child Advocacy Center, The United States Navy, The National Crime Victims Association, The Mark Mc Gwire Foundation for Children, The US Marshall’s Office, NYPD Special Victims Unit, and a number of law enforcement, child advocacy and Faith based organizations. Ms. Jensen served as Executive Director for the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers, chaired two of ATSA’s International Research and Treatment Conferences and served as President of Oregon’s Chapter of ATSA. She also chaired the Offender Management Committee attached to the Oregon Attorney General’s Sexual Assault Task Force, has been an instructor for Portland State University’s Child Welfare Training Institute for the past 15 years and provided training for Oregon’s police academy. Ms. Jensen has been the recipient of Oregon’s “Commercial Crime Prevention Award,” the “Champions for Children Award,” the OATSA “Significant Achievement Award,” the Nunnenkamp “Award of Excellence,” and the Jan Hindman Memorial Award. She has published a number of articles related to sex offender treatment, risk management and child abuse prevention, testified as an expert witness in local and federal courts and been a featured guest on radio talk shows and the Oprah Winfrey Show.

A New Approach to Prevention:

Workshops for Adults

Designed to Promote Child Safety and Community Risk Management

In the mid 80’s, researchers determined that our child sexual abuse prevention programs were inadequate. As news of the deficiencies spread, crime prevention experts, child advocates and sex offender treatment professionals joined forces to develop more effective methods to protect children. Some of the early discussions focused on the flaws involved in “Stranger Danger,” “No, Go, Tell,” and “Good Touch, Bad Touch.” Experts realized that one of the most serious problems was that all the programs depended solely on children to protect themselves. Traditional models assumed that children would be able to understand what was happening, tell someone they were being abused and “keep telling” if the person failed to take action. When questioned about the various problems in prevention programming, even the offenders were quick to point out that their tactics were much more sophisticated than most children could manage. Offenders reported that their behavior was usually gradual and highly manipulative. Most said they’d been actively involved in their victim’s life, family, school, neighborhood or church, and that nothing could have prepared the child for abuse by someone they trusted, respected or loved. Offenders also reported that too often, they were able to convince people that the victim had been mistaken, or lied. Experts concluded that children were “no match”, for sex offenders, and that adults needed to be educated about offender behavior. Early on, The Center for Behavioral Intervention was fortunate to be involved in these discussions and expanded our sex offender treatment program to include community education. Our staff designed workshops for parents, educators, youth service staff, social workers, police and correctional officers, judges, administrators, human resource managers, child advocates, clergy and other community members.

Geared for both professional and community groups, classes are tailored to provide useful, practical information related to child molestation, investigation, prevention and risk management.

For a complete list of workshops, fees and scheduling, please contact Cory Jewell Jensen at coryjjensen@gmail.com.

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Important Things to Consider

Three out of four sex offenders started offending during childhood or adolescence.

If you think your child is becoming overly involved in sexual behavior call an expert for advice. The last thing any parent should do is overlook a budding sexual behavior problem. Mine did and look what happened. Childhood sexual behavior problems can be treated just like any other childhood disorder. Get help, don’t stick your head in the sand. Your child deserves to grow up without becoming a victim or a sex offender. I wish I had.

If you know me and you suspect I have a problem with children, tell me about your concerns. Ask me to get help before I hurt a child and ruin my own life too.

If a child tells you I did something, believe it. Children don’t make this stuff up. They lie to get out of trouble, not into trouble. They have probably told you only the tip of the iceberg. If you confront me, I will talk you out of making that call and continue offending. Don’t argue with me, just make the call. If you talk to me first, I will do whatever I can to keep you from doing the right thing. I will tell you that it was the “first time” or promise “to never do it again.” I will say “I’m sorry” and tell you “I will get counseling.” What I really mean is, “I’m sorry I got caught.” If you don’t make that call, I will not get the help I need and that will be your fault. My problems will get worse and harder to deal with. You will actually be doing me a favor if you report me. Yes, I might go to prison, but I deserve that. What I have been doing is criminal and children will be safer with me behind bars. I need to cool my heels and think about what I have done.

When I get out, I will get sent to treatment by my parole officer. I will not always like it, but I need it. I will complain. Tell me to deal with it, don’t feel sorry for me. I am good at manipulating people. Support me, but don’t enable me. Talk to my therapist and parole officer. Listen to what they have to say. Hold me accountable. Don’t ever let me be alone with children ever again! Even if my crime was rape or exposing, I could molest children, boys or girls. It will be my fault if I re-offend, but it will be your fault if you let me.

“Joe” a sex offender in treatment

