

Assessing Your Personal Safety Knowledge

Before moving forward, test your current knowledge about child personal safety. Answer **TRUE** or **FALSE** to the following statements:

Questions

1. Children who appear to consent to sexual abuse are victims.
2. Teaching stranger danger is a good way to keep children safe from abduction and exploitation.
3. Children are most likely to be abused by strangers.
4. Offenders will abuse any child they have access to.
5. Young children are at the highest risk of sexual victimization.
6. Good touch and bad touch lessons are the most effective way to help children learn about sexual abuse.
7. Grooming is a technique used by offenders to sexually abuse children.
8. Assistance, affection and threats are lures used to abduct or sexually assault children.
9. Offenders usually use physical force to sexually abuse a child.
10. If a child is sexually abused s/he will usually tell an adult immediately.
11. Children are always aware when a situation has become sexually abusive.
12. Adolescents will almost always tell a safe adult about sexual abuse.
13. All child molesters were abused as children.
14. Offenders do not have intimate relationships with adults.
15. Boundaries are important to a child's personal safety.
16. In preventative education, instilling fear is NOT an effective way to ensure that children take their personal safety seriously.



Answers

- 1. TRUE.** Children cannot consent to sexual abuse. The legal age of protection in Canada is 16 years of age. Even after 16 years of age, a child cannot consent to sexual contact with an adult who is in a position of trust.
- 2. FALSE.** Children associate a stranger with someone who is scary and mean. Individuals who are interested in victimizing children usually present themselves as friendly and appealing to children.
- 3. FALSE.** Most victims of child sexual abuse know the offender.
- 4. FALSE.** Individuals with an interest in children usually target specific children they want to sexually abuse.
- 5. FALSE.** Children 11-17 years of age are at the highest risk of sexual exploitation.
- 6. FALSE.** This concept can be confusing, as a 'bad touch' does not always feel bad. Teaching 'bad touch' can cause the child to feel shame and guilt associated with the abuse.
- 7. TRUE.** For more information on the grooming process often used by child sex offenders, see page 10.
- 8. TRUE.** Assistance and affection are part of the grooming process (page 10), while threats and intimidation are meant to cause fear in the child, keeping him/her complacent.
- 9. FALSE.** Most offenders groom children and build relationships with them in order to increase compliance. Few use physical force.
- 10. FALSE.** Delayed disclosure is more common than immediate disclosure.
- 11. FALSE.** Sexual abuse can be very confusing to a child because they do not always know that the behaviour has become abusive.
- 12. FALSE.** Adolescents are the least likely to tell if they have been sexually abused.
- 13. FALSE.** Not all child molesters were abused as children.
- 14. FALSE.** Many individuals who sexually offend against children are married and have relationships with many adults.
- 15. TRUE.** Overwhelming evidence points to the importance of personal boundaries in keeping children aware of potentially dangerous situations and reducing the risk of victimization. See page 32 for information on personal boundaries.
- 16. TRUE.** Fear tactics are ineffective in teaching a child personal safety lessons, as fear can interfere with memory.

If you would like more information about the myths and facts of child personal safety and sexual abuse, visit www.commit2kids.ca.

