ARTICLE:

SUMMARY:
Purpose – improve our understanding of offender behaviors and their manipulative behaviors based on children’s statements from forensic interviews.

Important to recognize this is the first article to specifically reframe the seduction and solicitation of children, from grooming to manipulation

Subjects/Design:
95 investigative interviews with children (5-13 years old) conducted in 2011 which met the inclusion criteria below:
1. Alleged sexual abuse of a child
2. The was the first forensic interview of the child
3. Determined to be a high probability that the abuse occurred based on external evidence
4. Child made allegations and disclosed in the forensic interview
5. No developmental disabilities identified

All abusers were male, and more than half of the children involved were abused by offenders known to the child, but were not family members; and more than half involved multiple incidents of abuse. Forensic interviews were conducted using NICHD protocol.

Manipulation Process – any action performed by the alleged abuser before or immediately after the incident of abuse (establishment of emotional rapport with child, manipulation of the child’s family, use of temptation or coercion immediately before and/or after the abuse).

Findings:
1. Most commonly used Manipulation Tactics:
   1. “Manipulation of the Family” – reported by 68% of children
   2. “Establishment of Emotional Rapport” – 59% of children
   3. “Coercion” – 39% of children
   4. “Providing treats” – 17% of children
2. Although coercion was only identified by 39% of children, it was the second most reported offender behavior in children’s narratives – after the actual abuse
3. Building Emotional Rapport – significantly more present with female victims
4. Manipulation of the Family – significantly more associated with multiple incidents of abuse and the alleged offender being a family member


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