



**Kitchener-Waterloo
Sexual Assault Support Centre**

151 Frederick St, Suite 201,
Kitchener, Ontario, N2H 2M2

**24 Hour Crisis &
Support Line** (519) 741-8633

Business Line (519) 571-0121
Fax Line (519) 571-0522
TTY/TDD (519) 571-0864
Website www.kwsasc.org

Common Tricks used by Sexual Abusers

- They make sure nobody else is around.
- They make it a secret.
- They bribe the child with treats or presents.
- They scare or threaten the child.
- They make the child feel sorry for the abuser.
- They call it a game and make it appear fun.
- They make it look like it's the child's fault.
- They make the child feel special.
- They act nice.
- They convince the child it was an accident.
- They win the child's trust.
- They wait until the child is asleep.
- They convince the child it was just a dream.
- They tell the child it is sex education.
- They make the child feel guilty.
- They convince the child it is okay.

*Crisci, G., Lay, M., & Lowenstein L (1998). Paper dolls and paper airplanes.
Indianapolis: Kidrights.*



**Kitchener-Waterloo
Sexual Assault Support Centre**

151 Frederick St, Suite 201,
Kitchener, Ontario, N2H 2M2

**24 Hour Crisis &
Support Line** (519) 741-8633

Business Line (519) 571-0121
Fax Line (519) 571-0522
TTY/TDD (519) 571-0864
Website www.kwsasc.org

Why I didn't tell

- I thought nobody would believe me.
- I thought I would be put in a foster home.
- I thought my parent(s) would kill the abuser.
- I thought my family would break up.
- I thought the abuser would hurt me or someone I cared for.
- I thought I would be punished if I told.
- I thought I would be believed.
- I thought the abuse would stop.
- I thought I would never have to talk about what happened.
- I thought the abuser would admit what he did.
- I thought the abuser would cry.
- I thought that people would not understand.
- I thought my family would be ashamed of me.
- I thought that people would believe the abuser.
- I thought we would have to move.
- I thought my friends would find out and ask me embarrassing questions.
- I thought things like this only happened to bad kids.
- I thought they would put the abuser in jail right away.
- I thought my mother would feel sorry for the abuser.
- I thought my family would turn against me.
- I thought my family would turn against the abuser.
- I thought the abuser would lie about what had happened.
- I thought the abuser wouldn't love me if I told.
- I thought the abuser would start abusing someone else.
- I thought sex was something private that I shouldn't talk about.
- I thought nobody could do anything to help me.
- I thought I would get help.