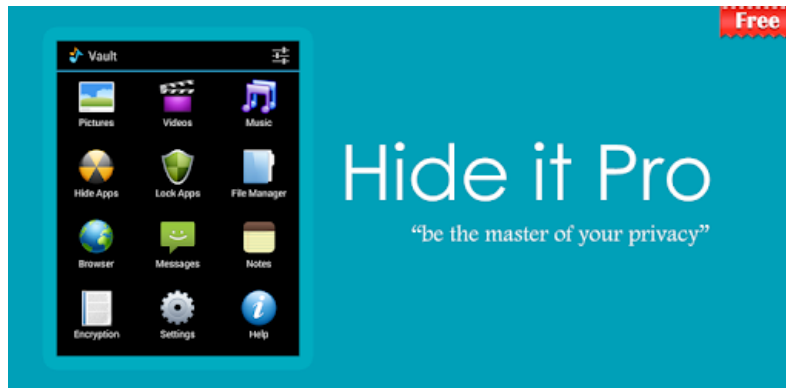


Social Media apps

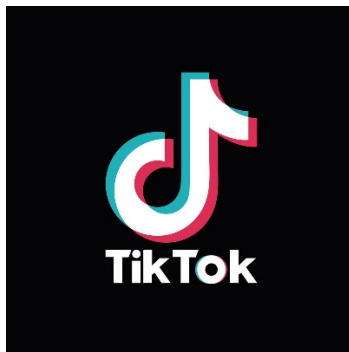


[HIP](#) (or Hide it Pro)

Children can use this app to hide inappropriate apps in plain sight. It works by disguising apps as something less sinister.

For example, a dating app that looks like nothing more than a music app. The name HIP is an acronym for Hide it Pro. However, it'll appear as a HIP on your child's device.

What parents need to know: It's available on the app store for free. Your child can set up a PIN to hide all sorts of files in a vault, including photos and messages. Also, there's another similar app to be on the lookout for, called [Poof](#).



Tik Tok - All the kids love it, and even some adults use it. It's the musical app people use to reenact their favorite dance moves from their favorite song or make a parody of a popular track.

What Parents Should Know: Some are concerned about the language their kids are exposed to while using the app, and rightfully so.

Not to mention, there's also suggestive dance moves young eyes shouldn't be watching (let alone doing). Did we mention adults are using it?

It's worth noting that the app is taking a stand by deleting accounts for users under 13. However, some parents may still want to ban this app for their 16+ teens. Be wary that users can fake their age, so if your child is under the limit, they can still create an account.

Social Media apps



Kik is an app that lets kids text for free. It's fast and has no message limits, character limits, or fees if you only use the basic features. Because it's an app, the texts won't show up on your kid's phone's messaging service, and you're not charged for them (beyond standard data rates).

What parents need to know: Kik allows communication with strangers who share their Kik usernames to find people to chat with. There's also a Kik community blog where users can submit photos of themselves and screenshots of messages (sometimes displaying users' full names) to contests.



GroupMe is another app that doesn't charge fees or have limits for direct and group messages. Users can also send photos, videos, and calendar links.

What parents need to know: It's for older teens. The embedded GIFs and emojis have some adult themes, like drinking and sexy images.

Teens are always connected. Without fees or limits, teens can share and text to their heart's content, which may mean they rarely put the phone down.



Instagram lets users snap, edit, and share photos and 15-second videos, either publicly or with a private network of followers. It unites the most popular features of social media sites: sharing, seeing, and commenting on photos. It also lets you apply fun filters and effects to your photos, making them look high-quality and artistic.

Ask your kids and inform yourself about RINSTA and FINSTA

Social Media apps

What parents need to know: Teens are on the lookout for "likes" and comments. Teens may measure the "success" of their photos -- even their self-worth by the number of likes or comments they receive. Posting a photo or video can be problematic if teens are posting to validate their popularity. This can cause damage to teens sense of self and self esteem.

Public photos are the default. Photos and videos shared on Instagram are public unless privacy settings are adjusted. Hashtags and location information can make photos even more visible to communities beyond a teen's followers if his or her account is public.

Private messaging is now an option. Instagram Direct allows users to send "private messages" to up to 15 mutual friends. These pictures don't show up on their public feeds. Although there's nothing wrong with group chats, kids may be more likely to share inappropriate stuff with their inner circles.



Tumblr is like a cross between a blog and Twitter: It's a streaming scrapbook of text, photos, and/or videos and audio clips. Users create and follow short blogs, that can be seen by anyone online (if made public).

What parents need to know: Porn is easy to find. This online hangout is hip and creative but sometimes raunchy. Pornographic images and videos and depictions of violence, self-harm, drug use, and offensive language are easily searchable.

Privacy can be guarded but only through an awkward workaround. The first profile a member creates is public and viewable by anyone on the Internet. Members who desire full privacy have to create a second profile, which they're able to password-protect.

Posts are often copied and shared. Reblogging on Tumblr is similar to re-tweeting: A post is reblogged from one tumblog to another. Many teens like -- and, in fact, want -- their posts reblogged. But do you really want your kids' words and photos on someone else's page?

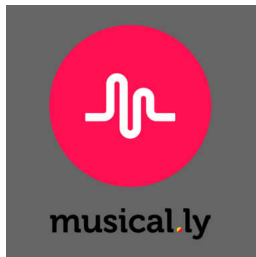
Social Media apps



Twitter is a microblogging tool that allows users to post brief, 140-character messages -- called "tweets" -- and follow other users' activities.

What parents need to know: Public tweets are the norm for teens, You need to talk to your kids about what they post and how a post can spread far and fast.

Updates appear immediately. Even though you can remove tweets, your followers can still read what you wrote until it's gone. This can get teens in trouble if they say something in the heat of the moment.



Musical.ly – Your Music Video Community is a performance and video sharing social network that mostly features teens lip syncing and to famous songs but also includes some original songwriting and singing.

What parents need to know: Songs and videos contain lots of iffy content. Because it features popular music and a mix of teens and adult users, swearing and sexual content are commonplace.

Gaining followers and fans feels important. Teens want a public profile to get exposure and approval, and many are highly motivated by getting more followers and likes for their videos.



YouNow: Broadcast, Chat, and Watch Live Video is an app that lets kids stream and watch live broadcasts. Ultimately, the goal is to get lots of viewers, start trending, and grow your fan base.

Social Media apps

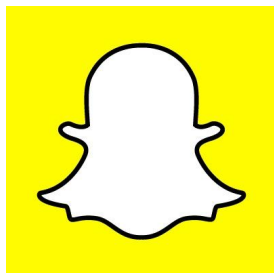
What parents need to know: Teens can often make poor decisions to gain popularity. Due to the live video, teens can do or say anything and can respond to requests from viewers -- in real time. There's plenty of swearing and occasional sharing of personal information with anonymous viewers. There is potential for teens to do things they normally wouldn't do in pursuit of approval but in a much more public way.

Also, teens can share personal information, sometimes by accident. Teens often broadcast from their bedrooms, which often have personal information visible, and they sometimes will share a phone number or an email address with viewers, not knowing who's really watching.



Burn Note is a messaging app that erases messages after a set period of time.

What parents need to know: It allows teens to communicate covertly, which may encourage risky sharing. The company claims that its "Multi-Device Deletion" system can delete a message from anywhere: the device it was sent from, the device it was sent to, and its own servers. But it's wise to be skeptical of this claim.



Snapchat is a messaging app that lets users put a time limit on the pictures and videos they send before they disappear.

What parents need to know: It's a myth that Snapchats go away forever. Data is data: Whenever an image is sent, it never truly goes away. (For example, the person on the receiving end can take a screenshot of the image before it disappears.) Snapchats can even be recovered.

This app can make sexting and other risky message sharing seem okay. The seemingly risk-free messaging might encourage users to share pictures containing sexy images.

whisper

Whisper is a social "confessional" app that allows users to post whatever's on their minds, paired with an image. With all the emotions running through teens, anonymous outlets give them the freedom to share their feelings without fear of judgment.

What parents need to know: Whispers are often sexual in nature. Some users use the app to try to hook up with people nearby, while others post "confessions" of desire. Lots of eye-catching, nearly nude pics accompany these shared secrets.

Content can be dark. People normally don't confess sunshine and rainbows; common Whisper topics include insecurity, depression, substance abuse, and various lies told to employers and teachers.

Although it's anonymous to start, it may not stay that way. The app encourages users to exchange personal information in the "Meet Up" section.



Yik Yak is a free social-networking app that lets users post brief, Twitter-like comments to the 500 geographically nearest Yik Yak users. Teens can find out opinions, secrets, rumors, and more. Plus, they'll get the bonus thrill of knowing all these have come from a 1.5-mile radius (maybe even from the kids at the desks in front of them!).

What parents need to know: It reveals your location. By default, your exact location is shown unless you toggle location-sharing off. Each time you open the app, GPS updates your location.

This app can lead to : cyberbullying, explicit sexual content, unintended location-sharing, and exposure to explicit information about drugs and alcohol.

Some schools have banned access. It can be gossipy and sometimes cruel nature can be toxic to a high school environment, so administrators are cracking down.

Social Media apps



MeetMe: Chat and Meet New People -- the name says it all. Although not marketed as a dating app, MeetMe does have a "Match" feature whereby users can "secretly admire" others, and its large user base means fast-paced communication and guaranteed attention.

What parents need to know: It's an open network. Users can chat with whomever's online, as well as search locally, opening the door to potential trouble. The app also asks permission to use location services on your teens' mobile devices, meaning they can find the closest matches wherever they go.

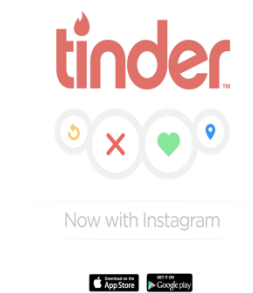


Omegle is a chat site that puts two strangers together in their choice of a text chat or a video chat room. Being anonymous can be very attractive to teens, and Omegle provides a no-fuss opportunity to make connections.

What parents need to know: Users get paired up with strangers. That's the whole premise of the app. And there's no registration required.

This is not an app for kids and teens. Omegle is filled with people searching for sexual chat. Some prefer to do so live. Others offer links to porn sites.

Language is a big issue. Since the chats are anonymous, they're often much more explicit than those with an identifiable user might be.



Tinder is a photo and messaging dating app for browsing pictures of potential matches within a certain-mile radius of the user's location.

What parents need to know: Meeting up (and possibly hooking up) is pretty much the goal.

It's location-based. Geolocation means it's possible for teens to meet up with nearby people, which can be very dangerous.

Social Media apps



Blindr:

What it is: A “flirting” app allowing users to send photos/videos to anyone on their “friends” list and rate their “hotness.”

What parents need to know: This app uses GPS and is not authenticated, so predators can find minors or anyone they are looking for. It’s also popular for sexting, and the “hotness” rating allows for bullying.



Ask.fm:

What it is: A popular Q&A social networking site used almost exclusively by kids.

What parents need to know: Its anonymous question-asking leads to relentless consequence-free cyber bullying. There are nine documented suicide cases linked to Ask.fm in the UK.

Social Media apps



Poof:

What they are: These are all apps designed to hide other apps on your phone. Not all are available anymore, but if your child already has them, they can still use them.

What parents need to know: These allow your child to conceal apps from their phone screen, so you will have to be diligent about searching for them.



Oovoo:

What it is: A video chatting app where users can chat with up to 12 people at a time.

What parents need to know: Your teens **MUST** use the privacy settings and only let people who know them chat with them.



Skout

What it is: A flirting app used to meet new people.

What parents need to know: Ages aren't verified, and although there is a teen version with slightly more safety features, all you have to do to bypass it is put in a fake birthday. This leaves children open

Social Media apps

to the adult sector of Skout, which includes plenty of profanity, suggestive pictures and private messaging with strangers who can see their location.

SeekingArrangement.com - identifies itself as a “sugar daddy dating app”.

What parents need to know: The philosophy behind the app trend is still evident... bribes for dates. Of course, “dates” can be defined in ways other than going out to dinner and a movie



After School – This app is a message board that students can join by scanning their school I.D. or Facebook profile. Once in the app, the user is anonymous.

What parents need to know: This app effortlessly creates drama and conflict among users because they all attend the same school. Students are able to freely post about anything. This year, a single school had problems with posts that included topless photos, alarmingly vulgar posts from males talking about fellow female students, and more. There is even a section where students can scan their driver’s license and enter a discussion only for students ages 17 and up, openly creating an environment for the discussion of more explicit material.



4chan is an anonymous image message board notorious for its controversial content.

What parents need to know: It is known to contain posts that can be described as vulgar, stupid and occasionally dangerous. Trends and ideas are quickly spread through users of the site that then incorporate this knowledge into day-to-day life.

It also opens up a platform for negative thoughts and actions. This has implications for the development of depression and even suicide.

Social Media apps



BurnBook is an anonymous app for posting text, photos and audio rumor messages about others.

What parents need to know: It encourages students to screenshot the rumors and save them to their phone, which causes bullying issues.

*Information gathered from a variety of websites including:

<https://www.familyeducation.com/fun/mobile-apps/safety-beyond-facebook-12-social-media-apps-every-parent-should-know-about>

<https://www.common sense media.org/blog/16-apps-and-websites-kids-are-heading-to-after-facebook>

<http://forevermom.com/mom-gold/parents-kids-10-dangerous-apps-time-hit-delete>

<https://www.online-tech-tips.com/smartphones/6-apps-every-parent-should-know-about/>