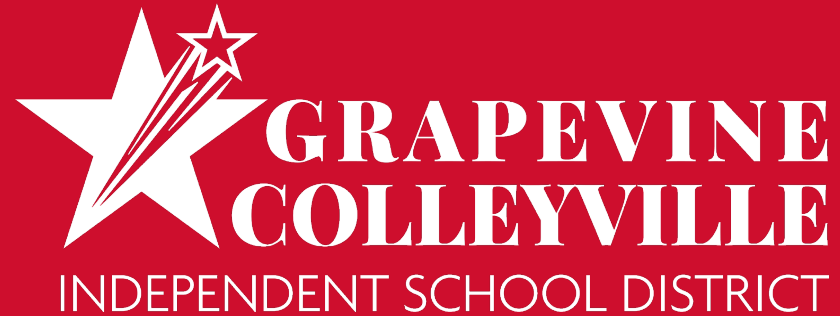


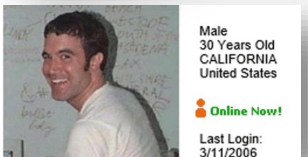
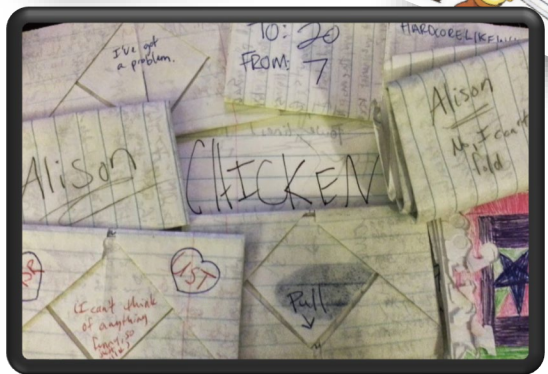
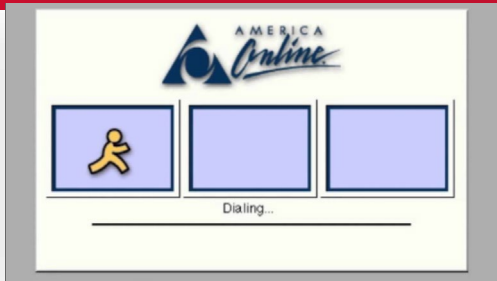
Parent Technology Academy

Top Apps Parents Need to Know



Sept 2019

Top Apps Parents Need To Know



Top Apps Parents Need To Know



**Remember, kids: Never
get in cars with
strangers unless you've
used an app to select a
specific stranger to
drive you around in
their car**



House Bill 2789

The law set to take effect Saturday forbids what is often characterized as technology-enabled sexual harassment. It makes electronic transmission of sexually explicit material a Class C misdemeanor with a fine of up to \$500 if the person who received it hasn't given consent.

The law targeting unwanted images will apply to text messages, email, dating apps and social media.

Warning, everyone: If you send an unsolicited nude image to anyone online in Texas, you can be charged with electronic transmission of sexually explicit material





Top Apps Parents Need To Know

50,000 sexual predators are online at any given time and that 50% of sex crimes committed against a minor involve a perpetrator obtaining information and/or pictures from social media sites or apps.

16% of teenagers considered meeting someone they had only talked to online, while 8% have actually done so.

Of those who did meet strangers face-to-face, **75%** did so on more than one occasion.





Top Apps Parents Need To Know

Top Apps as of September 3rd for Social media

	Free					Paid					Grossing				
Country/Region	# 1	# 2	# 3	# 4	# 5	# 1	# 2	# 3	# 4	# 5	# 1	# 2	# 3	# 4	# 5
United States															

	Free					Paid					Grossing				
Country/Region	# 1	# 2	# 3	# 4	# 5	# 1	# 2	# 3	# 4	# 5	# 1	# 2	# 3	# 4	# 5
United States															





Why are the following apps considered NOT to be safe?

These apps usually have inappropriate and un-moderated content. Many of these apps lead to cyberbullying. Often, these apps are anonymous and will encourage students to behave in a way you have never seen before. When students use an app in anonymous mode they tend to behave badly. They are also more prone to bullying and predators. The following are my opinion of dangerous apps currently on the market.

Social Media / Messaging / Meet Up Apps



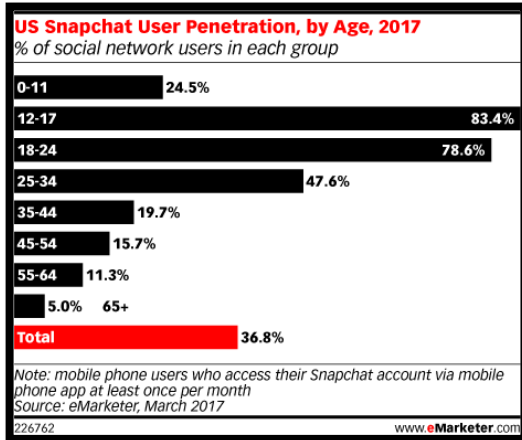
Top Apps Parents Need To Know



Snapchat

“Snap Map” lets people locate your teen

- lets teens “pinch to zoom” on their story page and view the map where their friends are posting from
- Predators and scammers use geolocation to know where your kids are at (and when you’re not home, for a possible robbery)



Snapchat Discover Stories regularly have sexually explicit images and articles — not for kids!



What is a Streak?

- A Streak is given to users who have sent each other Snaps consistently for two days or more
- A fire emoji will appear next to a friend’s name along with a number. The number indicates how many days you have consistently messaged that user back and forth



Top Apps Parents Need To Know

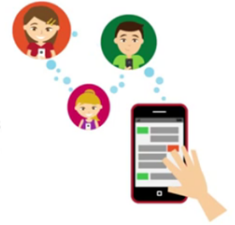


WhatsApp

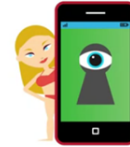
30 billion WhatsApp messages are sent every day, including **700 million photos**, 200 million voice messages and 100 million video messages.

When it comes to selfies, the American teens' favorite past time? Over 27 percent of all selfies shared on social media come from WhatsApp!

WhatsApp allows users to exchange unlimited messages without using traditional SMS.



That means anyone who has your child's contact information can send them inappropriate material.



This is how many teens find themselves contacted and "groomed" by online predators.



Parents Beware: WhatsApp scammers target children with 'Olivia' porn message . Olivia is sending WhatsApp messages to kids, claiming to be from a friend , don't be fooled she soon cuts the small talk short and starts sending links to porn sites.



Top Apps Parents Need To Know



Kik Messenger App

Kik allows anyone on the app to contact your child and directly message them.

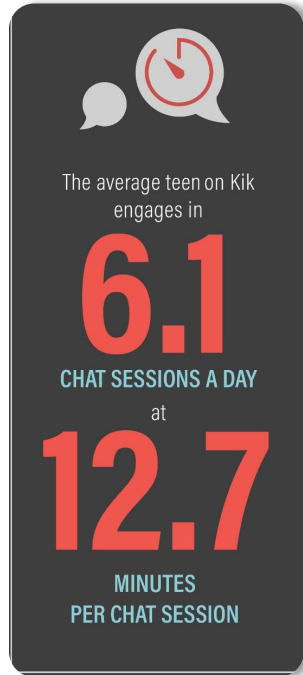
It has been known to allow adults to communicate with preteens, and is very difficult to discern who is a predator and who is real. Some adults have been known to use this app to pretend like they are tweens and teens. Kik allows students to bypass text messaging features of their phone. Users can connect with anyone on the network and aren't limited to their phone's contact list.

NOT BASED IN U.S. causes issues with law enforcement

The app allegedly has been used in high-profile crimes, including [the murder of a 13-year-old girl](#) and [a child-pornography case](#)

This \$1 Billion App Can't 'Kik' Its Huge Child Exploitation Problem

Kik has become 'the defacto app' for child predators, according to an investigative report





Top Apps Parents Need To Know



Jott Messenger app

Age: 13+

Jott Messenger is an app that allows students to send messages without a data plan or a WiFi connection.

Jott messenger creates a closed network with other devices (usually using a direct bluetooth signal) and can reach other users up to 100-feet.

Like Snapchat, Jott includes a “self-destructing” feature that lets the user decide when a message, photo, or video will disappear





Top Apps Parents Need To Know



MeetMe

Chat and Meet New People

Chat and Meet New People is popular online flirting, entertainment, and social networking app and website, formerly called [MyYearbook](#)

Users primarily log on to interact with new people, instead of keeping up with real-life friends. Teens, who must be 13 and in high school to sign up, use "lunch money" or credits to do things like put their profile at the top of the homepage as a spotlight for others to see; to get "priority in match" to increase the number of "secret admirers" you get; and play online games. Much of the communication has flirty overtones.

MeetMe app blamed for crimes Lawsuit alleges app is tool for predators

By Jace Larson - Investigative Reporter
Posted: 12:01 AM, December 22, 2014
Updated: 12:01 AM, December 22, 2014



The 17-year-old dangled herself as date bait, cops say, and those who bit got ripped off

BY DAVID J. NEAL
dnc@minnstar.com
October 02, 2018 04:40 PM


A 17-year-old and two North Broward men used modern hookup methods to pull off an armed robbery version of bait-and-switch, according to the Broward Sheriff's Office.

As described in arrest warrants, 17-year-old Edna Leon Alamo and her profile on the MeetMe app played the bait. At least two men who answered found the encounter switched from hookup to robbery, cops said, after Peterson Joachim and Shnyder Dumas came onto

Runaway girl rescued after being held on Valentine's Day

Robert Sniel, The Detroit News | Published 12:02 p.m. ET Feb. 19, 2019 | Updated 4:15 p.m. ET Feb. 19, 2019

Facebook | Twitter | LinkedIn | Comment | Email | More



Zachary Worley (Photo: Handout)

JustFashionNow

Detroit — Federal investigators rescued an underage runaway who did homework on her school laptop while being held in a Romulus home on Valentine's Day by a man she met online, according to federal court records.

The girl was rescued at the Greyhound bus station in Detroit last weekend and investigators arrested Zachary Tyler Worley, 25. The Texas man was charged with child pornography, enticement of a minor and a drug crime in a complaint filed Tuesday in federal court.



Top Apps Parents Need To Know



Skout

It uses your phone's GPS to put you in touch with people who are nearby, letting you chat with strangers, send virtual gifts and share photos .

Then they can redeem points to reveal the profiles of users who've "checked" them out or to access users in other geographic areas. Posts include plenty of profanity and suggestive pictures.



In 2012, [Skout shut down its teen community](#) following three US rape cases which saw paedophiles use the app to target children, including a 12-year-old girl.

One feature unique to Skout is the "Shake" feature, where users shake their phone to receive a randomly selected match to begin a chat.



Top Apps Parents Need To Know



IRL

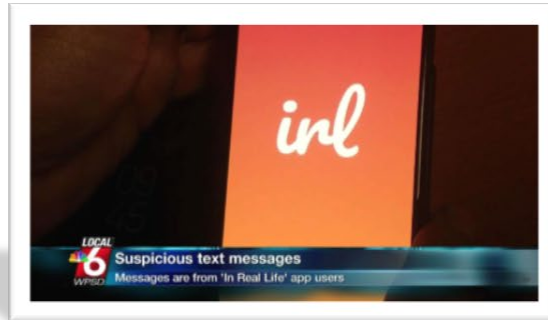
From same creator of "Gather" app with same function & removed from the app store. IRL is used for "meet ups" with strangers & been noted to be used by predators to prey on children.

Let's Hang is a freemium event planner meant to help people meet up with their friends in real life.

It contains a preset category called "Litty Committee" for meeting up to drink alcohol, and lets you send anonymous nominations ("Noms") to friends that include references to alcohol and language like "motherf---ing."

The app asks for your age as well as access to your contacts and location. Users can create their own meet-ups, and the app's chat functionality lets users send GIFs and photos (using device camera or gallery).

A built in map/directions function (when it works) helps users choose locations and meet up in real life.



You've been sent a compliment!
See it here:

IOS: itunes.apple.com/us/app/irl-lets-hang/id1332596741

Android: goo.gl/b6ekpZ

reply N opt out





Top Apps Parents Need To Know

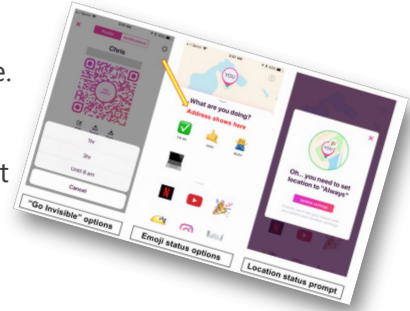


Mappen

"make something happen"

The app asks users to enable location tracking and asks them to designate a "home" location, which may or may not be the user's home address. Users can track friends if they have location tracking on, but it's possible to be invisible to one or more people at any time.

User-created maps show location addresses and even provide directions to those locations through Google Maps. Some report that the app spams people in their contact lists because they receive multiple invites from other users; the volume of these reviews indicates the invite process and the language around it is confusing for many.



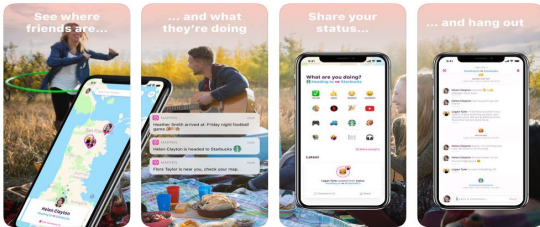
However it exposes your child's gps data & allows for others to track you within the app.

Privacy Concerns

When you use our Services, **we may collect your personal information.** That information may include, among other things, **your full name, email addresses, age, birthday, password, phone numbers, schools attended or attending, device identifiers, and other information you provide...**

We may also collect information from your user profile, including, among other information: **photos, usernames, gender, geographic information, likes, interests, bio, country, character names, email addresses, and contact information for and links to other websites...**

Depending on how you access our Services, we may also collect device identification information, including **MAC address and IP address.** If you choose to connect your mobile device contacts or address book with our Services, we will collect, synchronize and store your contacts or address book information. **We may collect the phone numbers and names of your contacts to enable you and your contacts to connect and use our Services...**





Top Apps Parents Need To Know



Threema

There is no age restriction since no personally identifiable information must be provided in order to use the app.

Parents should know that Threema is an app that secures all communications with a mobile device. The Threema app encrypts text conversations, photos, videos, voice calls and voicemails, in an effort to protect personal privacy and data when on a mobile device.

Parents may appreciate that Threema does not require any personal information, such as a phone number or email address, to use, thereby keeping your child's contact information anonymous. However, this also means that other users through this app are anonymous too, which can have stranger danger and cyberbullying issues.

Based in Switzerland, Threema uses its own servers and software for the platform, and users are able to enjoy the privacy laws for which Switzerland is known.



Honesty Apps / Anonymous Apps



Top Apps Parents Need To Know



Millions of teenagers in high schools nationwide are using a smartphone app to anonymously share their deepest anxieties, secret crushes, vulgar assessments of their classmates and even violent threats, all without adults being able to look in.

Headline – Washington

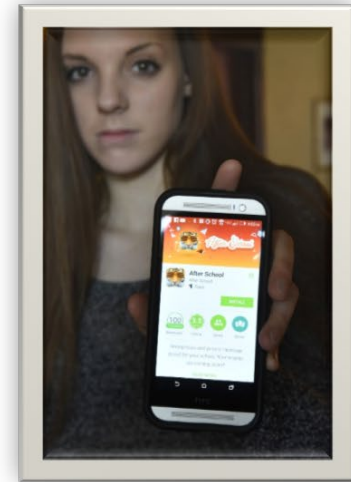


AfterSchool App

AfterSchool App is an anonymous app that creates a separate chat group for every school.

It has been removed twice from the AppStore because of threats and arrests.

Messages often include bullying, pornography, and alcohol or drug references.



Mya Bianchi, 15, shows the After School app on a cellphone in Ionia, Mich. Mya had her personal cell phone number posted on the app and was forced to change it. (Rod Sanford /For The Washington Post)



Top Apps Parents Need To Know



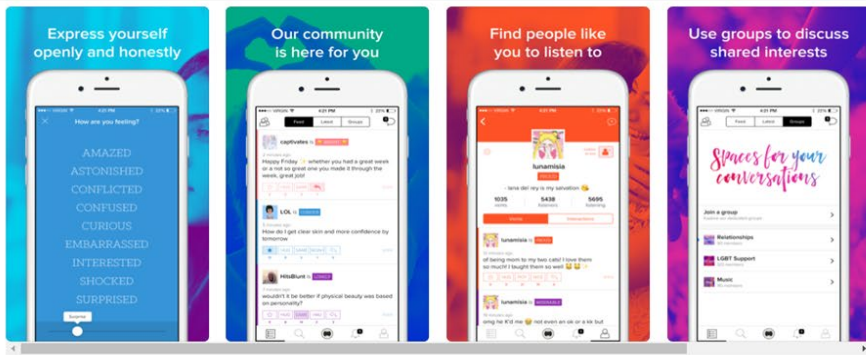
Vent App

“Express your feelings and connect with people who care.”

Similar to AfterSchool, this app to us is like a digital bathroom wall.

Vent only requires an email address to register, so it's easy to game the app and stay anonymous, even with multiple accounts.

And there's plenty of sexual content and posts about self-harm and suicide, which may be real, and may be trolling.

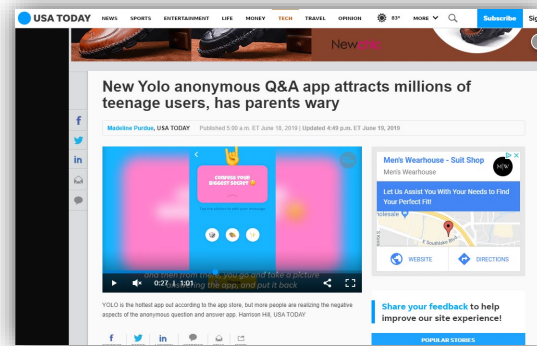


Top Apps Parents Need To Know



Yolo Anonymous

Yolo - an app that lets anonymous questions be posed to Snapchat users - has become the most-downloaded iPhone app in the UK and US just a week after its release.



YOLO warns users that if they send inappropriate or harassing messages, their identities will be revealed, but reviewers who've received these types of messages claim this just does not happen. Instead, if a comment is reported for being inappropriate, it simply disappears.

YOLO's terms of service state that the app may "collect and store personal information" including your name, phone number, email address, password, photo or avatar and location. YOLO's age rating is too low at 12+



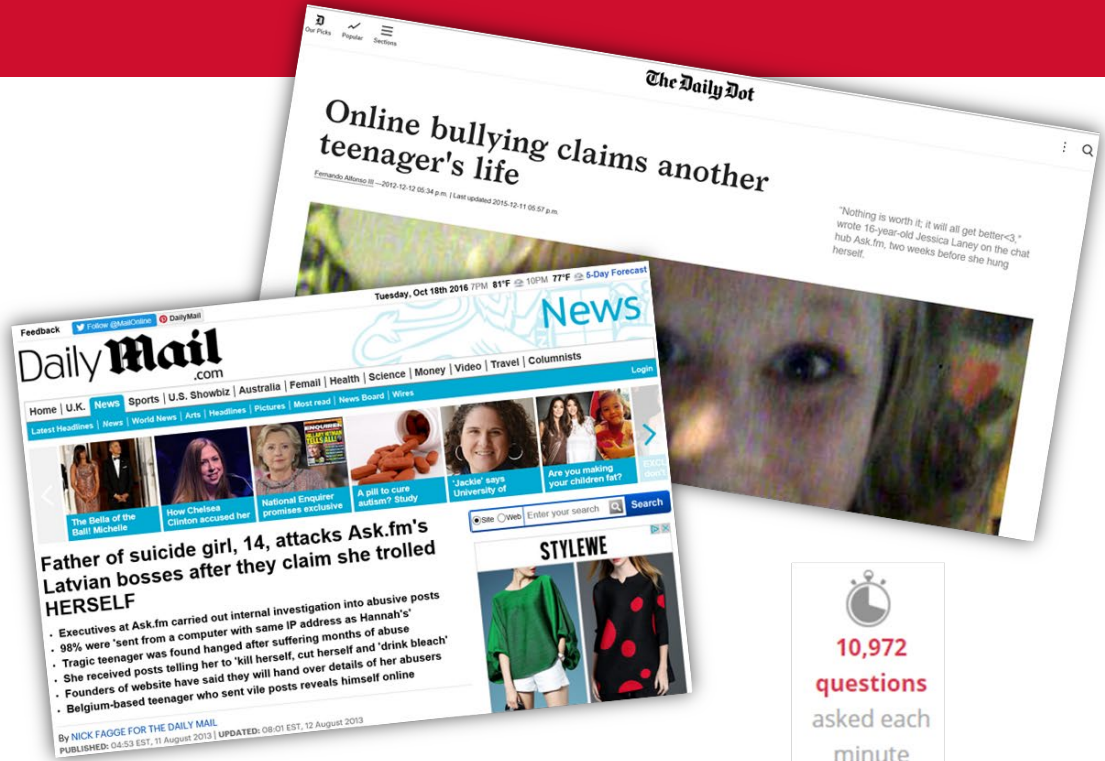
Top Apps Parents Need To Know




Askfm

Ask.fm is a social networking website where people can ask questions, with the option of anonymity. Kids often reveal too much personal information on this site, and cyberbullying is very prevalent.

42% of Ask.fm users are under the age of 17.




10,972
questions
 asked each
 minute

At least 9 teenage suicides were linked to cyber-bullying on social network Ask.fm.



Top Apps Parents Need To Know



Whisper App

Whisper is an anonymous social network that allows people to express themselves.

Whisper reveals a user's location, which makes it easy for people to arrange to meet up. This also makes it easier for predators to locate and connect with users.



Four-digit pin number keeps your kids Whisper posts from being seen when you inspect their phone.

Former DeSoto nurse pleads guilty to using social media to meet Arlington girl for sex

Tom Steele, *Breaking News Producer*  



The app showed that the user was located about a half mile away from the teen's location. About five minutes after agreeing to meet, the girl observed a male walking down the street toward her residence. She allowed the man into the home



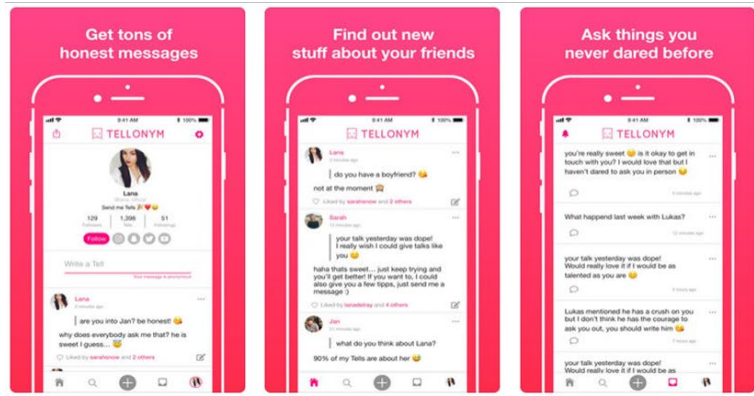
Top Apps Parents Need To Know



“the most honest place on the internet”

Tellonym

Tellonym a trending app from overseas appearing more in US . Troublesome replacement to anonymous apps from the past Sahara and yikyak. This one harbors cyber bullying & more.



The app is wildly popular in middle schools and high schools, allowing kids to ask and answer questions anonymously so you can imagine where that ends up.

With a lot of sexual content, a lot of bullying, and even threats of violence. It can also be connected to social media accounts, so when one user writes something awful about a classmate it can be broadcast loudly to the world.



Video Chat / Calling Apps



Top Apps Parents Need To Know

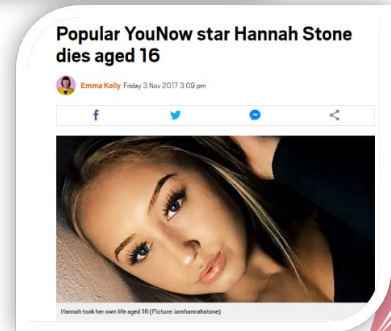
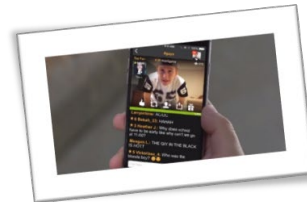
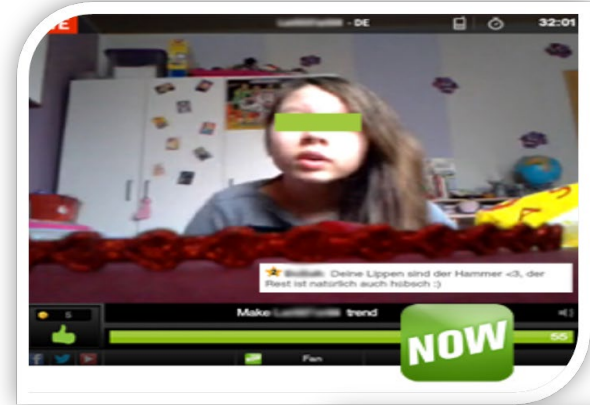


YouNow App

YouNow is a popular broadcasting platform where kids watch and stream real-time videos.

Users decide whether broadcasters should continue their live videos with thumbs up and thumbs down voting.

Anyone can record the videos posted, take screenshots and bully others with the recordings.



Top Apps Parents Need To Know



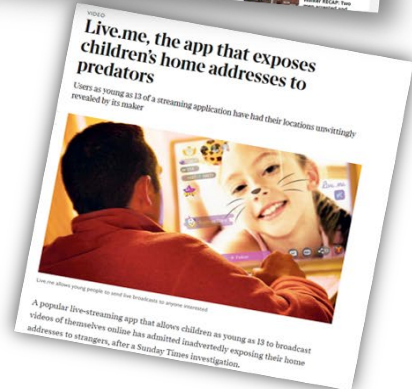
Live.me app

Age: 17+

Live.me is a live streaming video app that allows users to watch or broadcast live-stream videos. Parents need to know that the app uses geo-location to share videos, so users know broadcasters exact location.

Users earn coins on Live.me and some predators are using coins as a way to pay minors for pictures.

Be aware that anyone can watch your students videos and access their information on the app.



#3 grossing app over the past month



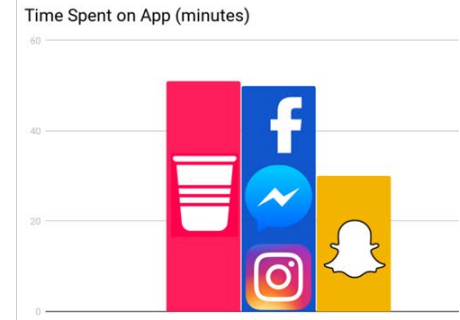
Top Apps Parents Need To Know



Houseparty

Houseparty is a group video chat application that can have up to eight people in a chat at once.

Because this is a live app, there is a risk of inappropriate behavior that can be screenshotted and shared, and kids may see distressing content as there is no way to control what others show in a chat.



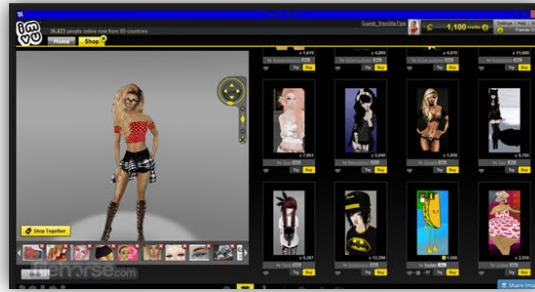
Top Apps Parents Need To Know



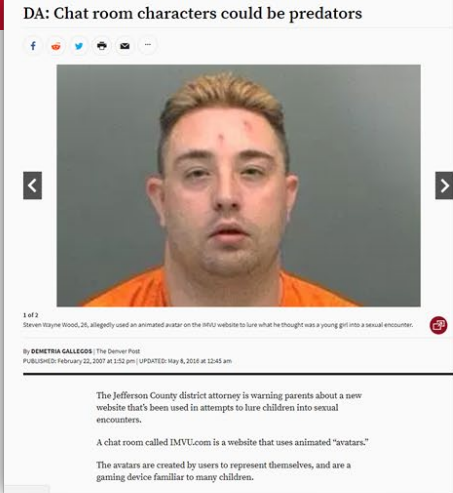
IMVU App

Age: 17+

IMVU is an app where users create custom avatars and use them to chat with strangers in random chats or 3D chat rooms. This app can be used by predators to try and get victims to share their phone number, send photos, and video chat off of the app. Content on IMVU is inappropriate for teens and avatars can be used to simulate explicit activities

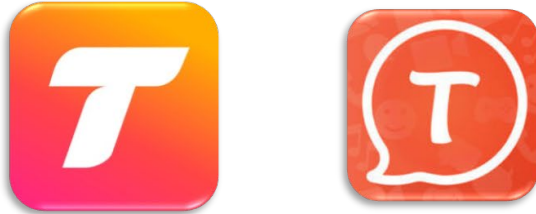


- All profiles are public
- This app can be used by predators to try and get victims Chat rooms are unmoderated
- Users can buy inappropriate and suggestive clothes for their avatars
- IMVU encourages users to chat with strangers
- Avatars can simulate explicit acts





Top Apps Parents Need To Know



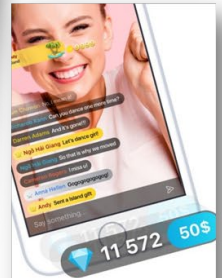
Tango app

Age: 17+

The Tango app is a social network and messaging app for phones or tablets that uses geo-location.

Tango encourages users to talk to strangers which is very dangerous.

Since the app utilizes geo-location, strangers can get access to your child's location if they are using the app.



**Get Gifts
Cash Out!**



Top Apps Parents Need To Know

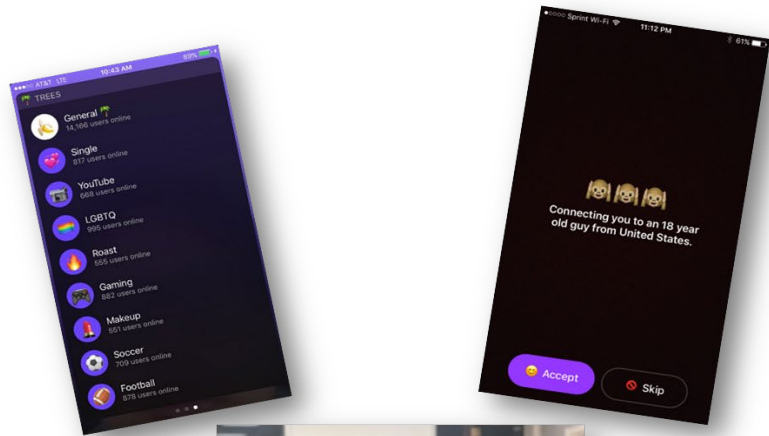


Monkey app

Age: 13+

The Monkey app allows kids to have fun chats with new people from all over the world! Users are randomly matched with other users for a brief, introductory video call.

When matched with a new person, you can add more time or add the person on Snapchat to continue the connection.



Top Apps Parents Need To Know



Bigo Live

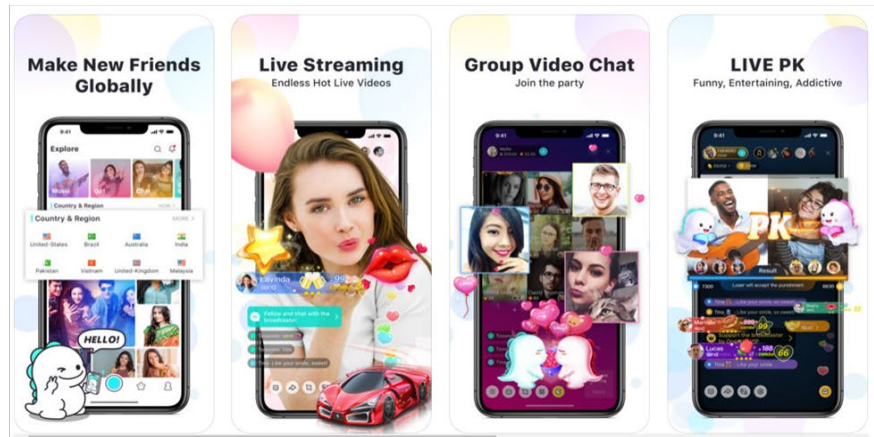
May appear to be a children's game. In reality, the app lets teens stream live video of themselves that other users can comment on in real time

There's no age verification beyond AI, and it asks users to reveal key personal information like age, gender, and location, it's not safe for younger teens.

Kind of like Twitch and YouTube, BIGO LIVE lets teens stream live video of themselves that other users can see and comment on in real time. You can also receive and send "Beans" -- BIGO's term for virtual gifts -- that cost real money. You can level up and improve your ranking by logging in every day and sending gifts. The platform is designed for people who supposedly want to get famous, but it seems to be filled mainly with people competing for gifts.

What parents need to know

BIGO has a lot of mature content, including sexy talk and clothing, and users' comments are often predatory and explicit. Also, its focus on status and spending money, as opposed to creativity and talent, makes it feel shallow.



Live-video app Bigo already had to block 200,000 pieces of content in Indonesia

Indonesia has tough anti-pornography laws

By Khamila Mula Tue Mar 12 2019

TWITTER FACEBOOK LINKEDIN

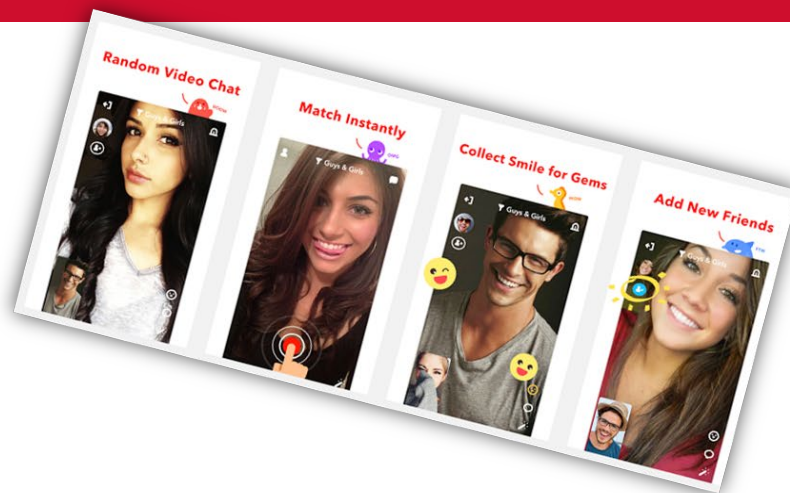


Top Apps Parents Need To Know



Holla

Holla is a video chat app that connects users at random to chat with other users across the globe. Users are connected at random, and have the option to swipe to find a new person to chat. This is not a safe app for kids to be using without supervision from parents.



This is a pedophiles heaven.
The app's ability to stay connected as 'Friends' allows sex traffickers to use this app to lure in young girls.





Top Apps Parents Need To Know



Tagged

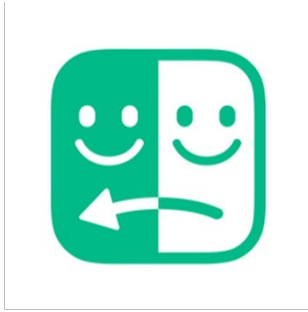
“Bored AF? (as f-ck) Watch Tagged Live!” Most importantly, pairing teens with nearby adults is a no-go. But that’s only the beginning. Tagged - Chill, Chat & Go Live! suggests you fill your time by judging other people based only on their looks and watching people streaming events from their everyday lives.

Involves rating people, chatting with them, and sending them digital “gifts.” Livestreamers who gather lots of likes and followers earn real-world money, and the app encourages you to send your viewers and followers gifts to “make them feel special.”

And though the terms of service say lewd behavior and imagery is forbidden, there’s plenty of half-naked people of both genders and plenty of substance-related and sexy talk going on in chat.



Top Apps Parents Need To Know



Azar - Video Chat, Discover

Azar is a random video-chatting app that matches users up with others from around the globe.

The Azar app features both in-app purchases and advertisements and is rated for users 17 years of age and older.



Bermuda-Random Live Video Chat

Hello stranger! Bermuda is an application that connects you to new friends around the world with a single swipe.



Dating / Hook up Apps



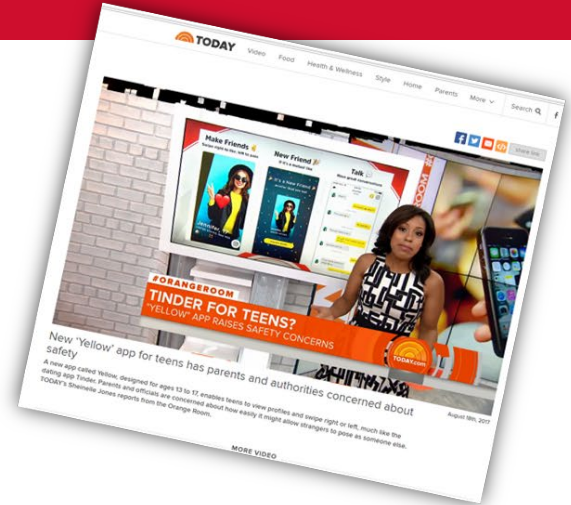
Top Apps Parents Need To Know



Yellow app or Yubo APP

Age: 13+

Nicknamed "Tinder for Snapchat" and "Tinder for Teens", the Yellow app markets itself as a way to make friends even though it's mostly used as a dating app. This can be confusing for teens and tweens who are just getting access to Instagram and Snapchat.



'Tinder for teens': Fears new photo-swapping app for children could be exploited by predatory paedophiles - and all they have to do to join is lie about their age

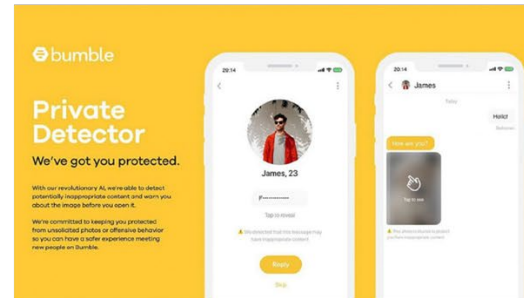


Top Apps Parents Need To Know



Bumble

Bumble is a dating app that has a special area for 13-17 year-olds to date online. It is very similar to Tinder (started by a former employee). The only important difference between this app and Tinder is that girls must always send the first message. This might postpone when the conversation turns sexual, but we have not seen evidence that his somehow makes online dating safe for minors or prevents adults from creating fake Facebook accounts to meet minors here.



The artificial intelligence tool reportedly has a 98 percent accuracy rate in flagging restricted content, including guns and nudity.



Top Apps Parents Need To Know



MyLOL app

Age: 13-19

MyLOL is the #1 teen dating app in the US, UK, and Canada and is designed for students 13-19 years old.

Built-in features of MyLOL encourage users to send private messages to random strangers.

While people over 20 years old are not permitted to create an account, MyLOL makes it easy to enter another birth date, if you're not a teen

PAEDO GROOMING THREAT
Schoolkids 'tricking into sending nude selfies to paedophiles on Mylol teen dating app'

Police say they are investigating reports kids are being groomed and persuaded to send inappropriate images of themselves through the site

By GEMMA MULLIN
 4th February 2017, 9:08 am | Updated: 9th February 2017, 12:28 pm

COMMENT NOW

SCHOOLCHILDREN are being tricked into sending nude selfies to paedophiles on a teen dating app named Mylol, it's been claimed.

British police say they are investigating reports kids are being groomed and persuaded to send inappropriate images of themselves through the site, based in America.

Parents have raised concerns their children are being 'targeted' on the Mylol dating app



Global dating site for children as young as 13 taking off in Australia is a 'playground for paedophiles' as police warn parents and schools to get their children off it

- MYLOL claims to be the number one teen dating site in the world





Top Apps Parents Need To Know



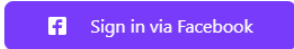
Badoo

Badoo is an adults-only app for online dating-style social networking. With more than 200 million users worldwide, the app (and companion desktop version) identifies the location of a user by tracking his or her device's location and then matches pictures and profiles of potentially thousands of people the user could contact within the surrounding area.



446,053,965

people have already joined,
jump in!

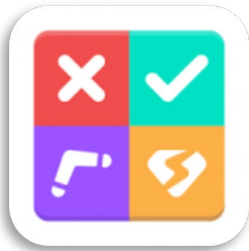


We never post on your behalf.





Top Apps Parents Need To Know

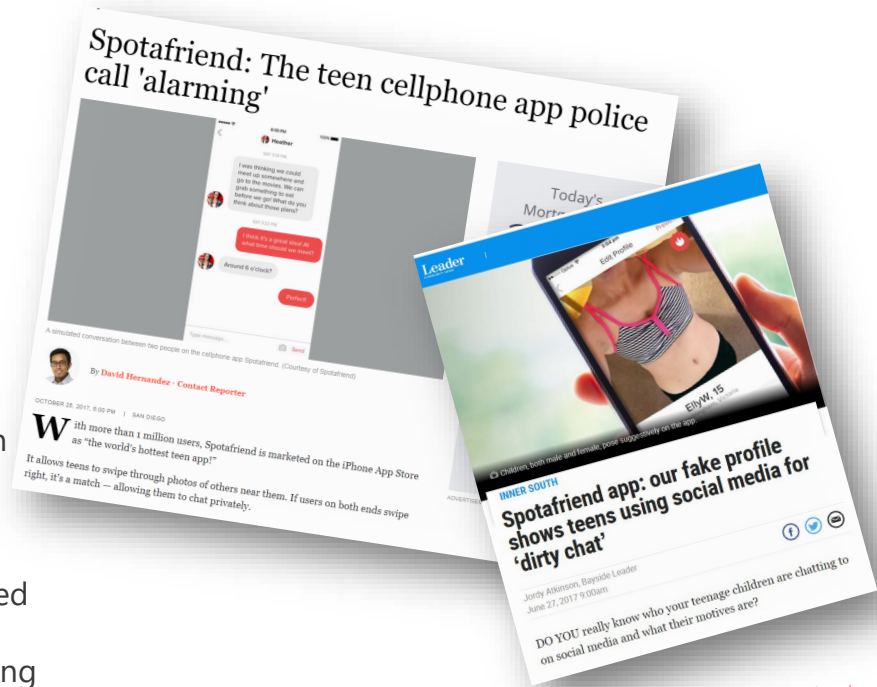


Spotafriend app

Age: 13+

Spotafriend - Teen Meeting App to Make New Friends is marketed as a teen "friend" app for users 13-19, but comes with a Mature 17+ rating in the app stores, and the website description uses the term "[Tinder](#) alternative."

Anyone can sign up by entering a fake age. Also, many matches are based on location, so teens are contacting strangers nearby. Ads appear frequently and users are rewarded for watching them. Chat and messaging is basically unrestricted, profiles can be forwarded among members, and though the app is free, it offers an "Ultimate" paid membership that enables users to rate and message more contacts.



Message Boards / Blogging / Dark Web



Top Apps Parents Need To Know



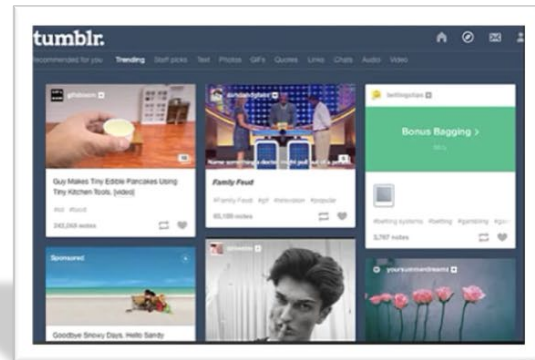
420+ million users (42% from US)
225+ million blogs
61% of teens consider Tumblr their favorite social network

Tumblr

Tumblr is one of the world's most popular blogging platforms. Users tend not to use their real names, so it can be hard to find blogs without knowing a specific username.

All accounts are public and content goes unmonitored.

In their terms of services allows for pornographic images and allow posting adult content per their service agreement





Top Apps Parents Need To Know

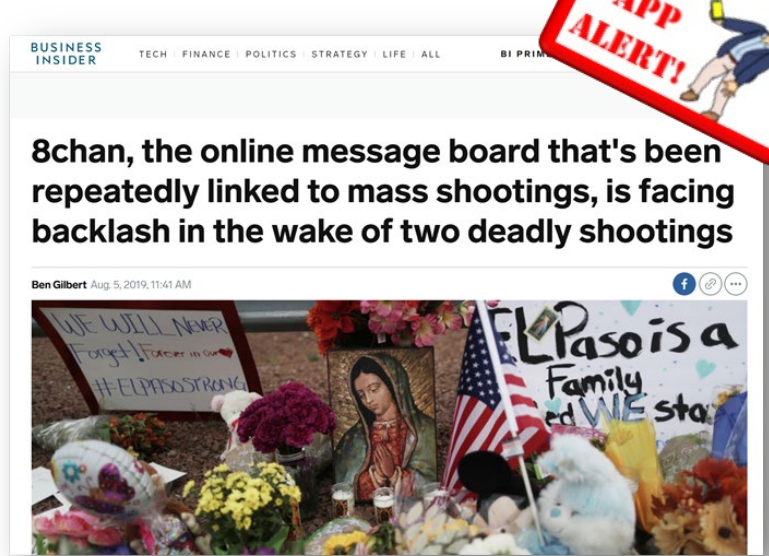


Omnichan Pro:
4chan and 8chan Client



Mimi 4chan Reader

Omnichan Pro is rated for adult or mature users only due to the nature of the app’s function. While the app itself is not harmful, it allows access to “anything goes” chan message boards and image board where content is notoriously not appropriate for children.



4chan is referred to as a “shock post” site

Posting offensive material is a game to the avid 4chan user, and they often make a game of being able to outdo one another. And because users on the site are entirely anonymous users tend to lack any moral responsibility.



Top Apps Parents Need To Know



Red Onion

Red Onion, a tor-powered internet server, users can browse the web anonymously, bypass school and public internet filters, and access the dark net, which is a network of anonymous sites accessible only by tor servers. Red Onion is only available to users 17 and up and is not safe for kids at all.

Others use Tor browsers for more nefarious purposes, such as hacking or accessing the darknet.

For those unfamiliar with darknet, the best way to describe it is as a virtual black market. People use the darknet to conduct transactions for illegal weapons, drugs, post and look at child pornography, or engage in any otherwise illegal or suspicious behavior.

Parents should be concerned, should they find the Red Onion app on their child's phone.



Number Hiding Apps





Top Apps Parents Need To Know



Phoner 2nd Phone Number Text

Anonymous Texting & Calling

Protect your privacy

- > Text & Call anonymously.
- > Hide & Mask your caller ID

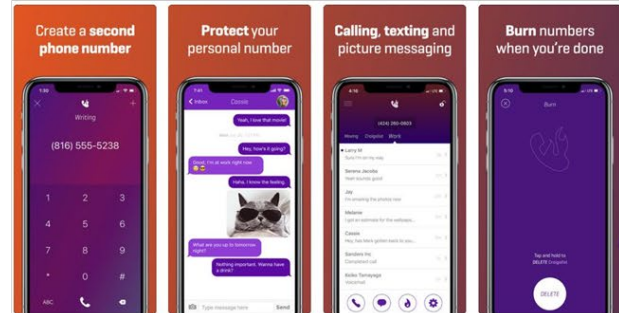
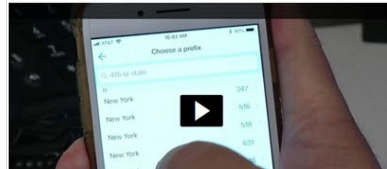


Burner - 2nd Phone Number

Burner phone apps used to make harassing calls

Woman received hundreds of unwanted calls from different numbers

By Mike DeForest - Investigative Reporter
Posted: 11:01 PM August 27, 2018
Updated: 11:03 PM August 27, 2018



Apps To Hide content on Device





Top Apps Parents Need To Know



Secret Calculator



Private Photo Vault



Hide it Pro app



Best Secret Folder



PrivateMe



Keepsafe Photo Vault

Think it's not serious? Last fall, there was a headline-making case in a Colorado high school where [teens used apps to hide a huge sexting ring](#) from parents and school officials.



Tips to find Hidden Apps

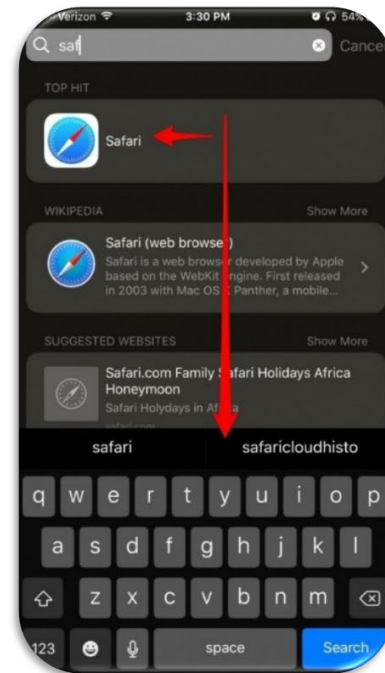




Top Apps Parents Need To Know

How to Find Hidden Apps on iPhone

- From any Home screen, swipe down from the middle of your screen.
- This will open Spotlight search.
- Type in the name of the app you're looking for.
- If it's located on your iPhone, it will pop up.



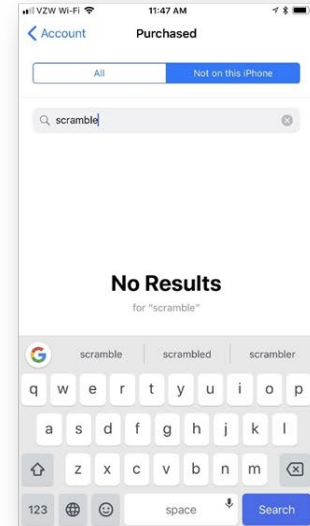
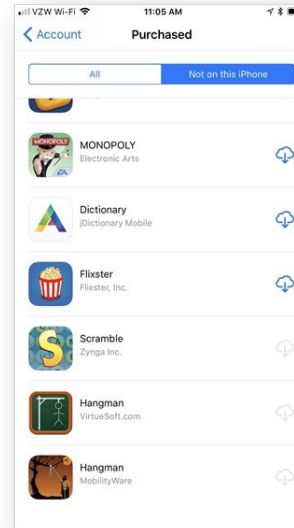
Top Apps Parents Need To Know



Use the app store for a quick search of app downloaded history

1. Open the "App Store" app.
2. Tap "Updates"
3. Tap "Purchased"

Ensure "All" is selected on the left. Apps that are installed on this device will appear with the "OPEN" button next to them.





Top Apps Parents Need To Know



1 Tap the App Drawer icon. This is the icon that has 6 to 16 small circles or squares on the home screen. It's usually at the bottom-center or bottom-right.

2 Tap the menu icon. This looks different on various devices, but it may appear as a gear icon or ≡ at the top of the apps list.

- If your Android has a menu button at the bottom-right side of the screen (next to the Home button), press or tap it.

3 Tap **Show hidden applications**. This displays a list of all apps that have been hidden from the app drawer.

- If you don't see this option, there may not be any hidden apps. Tap **All** to view a list of all apps, just to make sure.



Gaming Apps





Top Apps Parents Need To Know



HAGO

HAGO is an app in which you can play many games for free on your smartphone. It is available for both **Android** and **iOS**. HAGO has other features also like **Chatrooms**. It has also a feature by which you can see people around you that use HAGO with the distance between you and them. For this, you must enable location and allow the app to use it. Then, you can play games with people that are near to you or you can play just randomly.



There are also diamonds in HAGO which you can buy with real money and gift your friends with virtual gifts present in HAGO's chatrooms.





Top Apps Parents Need To Know



Discord

TECH | FAMILY & TECH: JULIE JARGON

The Dark Side of Discord, Your Teen's Favorite Chat App

Its private gaming communities can be like unsupervised playgrounds, full of racist memes, vulgar talk and bullying

By Julie Jargon

Updated June 11, 2019 6:07 pm ET

If your teens play videogames, there's a good chance they've found their way to the Discord chat service, or will soon.

Described as "Skype for gamers," Discord has become the hip way for gamers to chat about - what else? - gaming. And with 19 million daily users, it's suddenly surging faster than Uber fares on a rainy Saturday night.

Under-13s not being on Discord, legally or otherwise. =

As for older kids, they need to be aware that they can block unsuitable content using the app's Explicit Content Filter. They can also easily mute or block individual users, and limit "adds" to friends.



Reminders



Top Apps Parents Need To Know



GCISD

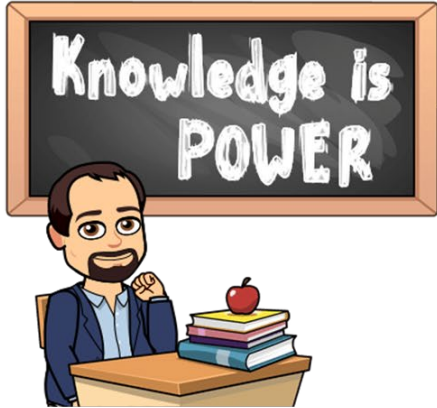
Parent
Technology
Academy

Educate your kids

It's crucial that kids are made aware of the dangers of using social networking sites. Even if the incidences of kidnapping are small, the incidences of sexual exploitation, grooming and cyberbullying are alarmingly high. Children need to know how much information is too much information and that they should not be posting personal information such as their age, address, phone number and school anywhere on the internet. You should also explain why it is never a good idea to accept friend or follow requests from people they do not know.



Top Apps Parents Need To Know



•Enhance privacy settings

All social media sites have privacy settings and you should try to make your child's social media posts as private as possible. The default privacy setting on many sites is 'public' and many sites revert to this when updates are installed. Therefore it is worth checking privacy settings regularly. Talk to your child about why this is important and consider making it a condition of allowing them to register on a given site.

•Don't let kids flag up their age

Online predators are adept at identifying children. Discourage your child from using photos of themselves or usernames/screen names that flag them up as being a minor.

•Know your child's passwords

Ask your child to give you the passwords for all their devices, as well as login information. This may meet with some resistance at first, but explain to your child why this is important. Not only is checking up on their online activity from time to time one way to protect them from predators or bullies, it can also be critical if a child does go missing.

•Monitor online activity

With the danger to children online rising day by day, it is important that we as parents do everything we can to keep them safe. Monitoring your child's online activity is one way to do so and monitoring software can help.



Top Apps Parents Need To Know



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Enable safety features on all devices

‘Geotagging’ on mobile devices should be disabled so that a child’s location is not disclosed. This can be done on most devices in the ‘Settings’ menu. In addition, you should discourage your child from ‘checking in’, a popular feature of most social media sites. ‘Checking in’ also allows people to pinpoint someone’s exact location at the time of posting.



Monitoring Tools



Top Apps Parents Need To Know



Bark is the most comprehensive monitoring tool trusted by parents and approved by schools.

- **Monitors** an unlimited number of children and accounts while saving you time
- **Detects** potential risks 24/7 and preserves children's privacy
- **Alerts** you to issues along with next steps to help address them

Sign up today at bark.us

USE PROMO CODE TO GET 15% OFF

GCISD

Bark monitors 4x more platforms than any other tool for predators, adult content, sexting, cyberbullying, depression, suicidal thoughts, drug use, & more.



BARK IS AN AWARD-WINNING TOOL



For more information, contact Bark at help@bark.us



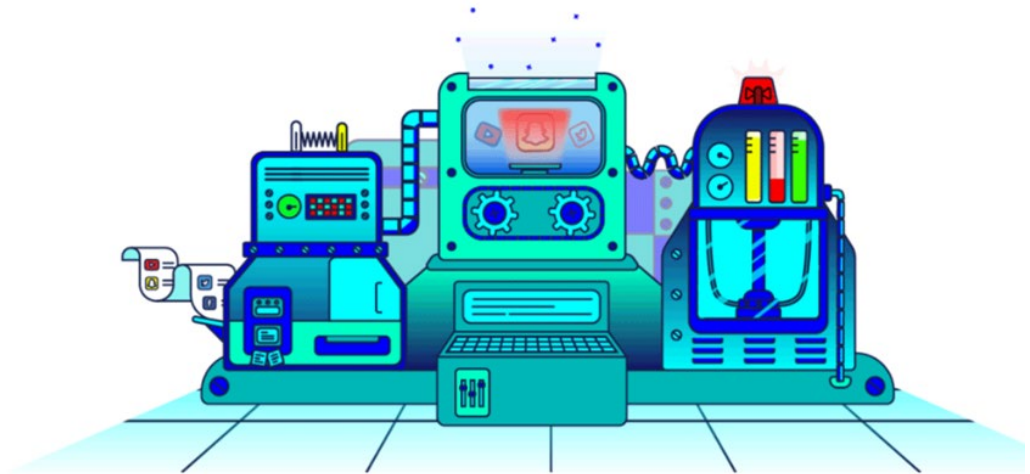


Top Apps Parents Need To Know



presented by bark 

Bark@matic



The Ultimate Resource for Online Parental Controls

The Barkomatic is the internet's first customizable resource for parental controls. No matter how your child uses the internet, we can provide you with all the information you need quickly, easily, and in one location.



bark-o-matic.com

Technology *can't* catch everything, so Communicate!

The most efficient way of keeping kids safe is by keeping the lines of communication with your child open. Positive relationships and discussions with your child about the risks they face will make them less likely to become victims and will enable them to come to you if they feel uncomfortable or threatened online.



Thank you

k, thx

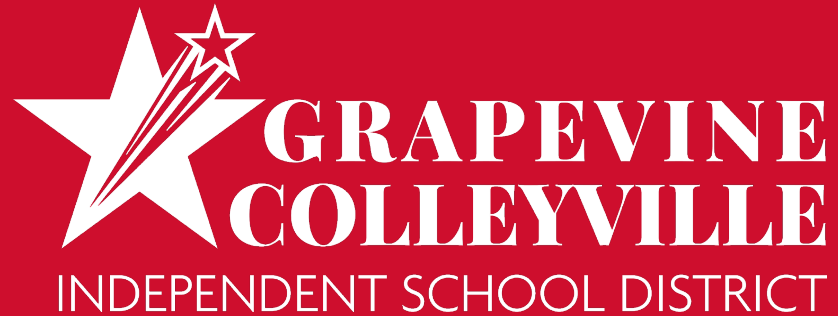



www.GCISD.net/ParentTech

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Sources included:  common sense

