

Apps You Want To Know:

A Parent's Guide to What You May OR May Not
Want to Know About Your Child's Social Media

Life...



Texting Apps

The World of Social Media



Kik Messenger

This app allows kids to text for free. It has no message limits, character limits, or fees if you only use the basic features it has. Since 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 the standard data rate).

Parents:

- Ads/In-app purchases: *Kik* is used for conversations between brands and users. It also offers specially designed apps, many offer products for sale.
- Stranger Danger: *Oink Text* is an app linked with *Kik* which allows you to talk to strangers. You can share your *Kik* username to find other people to chat with. Also, there is a *Kik* community blog where you can share photos of yourself and screenshots of messages exchanged. (Sometimes displays the user account's full name).



Text Free

Is an app your child can use if they have gone over their service bill and parents shut off their phone. They receive a free texting number, and send free unlimited texts to anyone.

Parents:

- Can be used to talk to people you forbid your child to talk too.

ooVoo



The app is a free video, voice, and messaging app. You can have a group chat up to 12 people. It's common for kids to go on after school.

Parents:

- You can only talk to people that are on their contact list.



WhatsApp

WhatsApp

Users can send text messages, audio messages, videos, and photos to one or more people with no limits or fees.

Parents:

- For users 16 and older. Once you sign up, it automatically looks up everyone that's in your contact list that has this app.



Tango

App that you can use for free video, voice, and text with friends and family.

Accept or decline using your location setting to make phone calls.

Parents:

- Connect and share information including, group chats, games and music. Users must be 13+ in order to be able to use the app. Chatting can include up to 300 conversations.

Texting Apps Continued...

The World of Social Media



Group Me

Users can use this app to talk to more than one person at the same time. You can start a conversation with anyone that is in your contact list. This app works universally between Androids and iPhones. You can also send photos within the group conversation.

Parents:

- Just like any other texting app; there is the risk it will be used other than it should be.
- Sending explicit photos and messages.



Skype

Users can make an account and video-chat with anyone that is their friend. You can also call any of your friends via skype. It can be a landline or even a cell number. You can instant message and connect to family members all across the country at anywhere and anytime.

Parents:

- Users can use this as possible way to sext their boyfriend or girlfriend through skype.

Viber



Free calling, text, and sharing pictures at anytime between Viber users. There is no registration, invitations, or alias needed. Automatically integrates your contact list, so you may talk to anyone on your list that has Viber.

Parents:

- Anyone that is not on their contact list and doesn't have the app won't be able to talk to them.
- Just make sure your child knows everyone in their contact list and they aren't random contacts they don't know.

Messenger



Users can chat with friends and family members that already have a

Facebook. It's similar to what used to be AIM for AOL account users. It's automatically linked through their Facebook profile. You can chat with anyone that is online at the same time you are. If not they will get the message when they sign back onto their profile.

Parents:

- Just make sure everyone your child is friends with they know.

Blogging Apps & Sites

Obsessive Nature

Instagram

Users are able to take, edit, and share photos, as well as 15-second videos. Profiles can either be public or private. Share and comment on others photos. You can edit pictures by using different filters.

Parents:

- Users look for how many "likes" they can get in a certain period of time.
- Hashtags can be used as captions for what someone is doing and the location of where the photo was taken.

Twitter

Allows users to post brief 140 character message: "tweets." Follow other users activities. Adults and teens use it to keep up with what's going on in the news and the their favorite celebrities.

Parents:

- Users have the choice of allowing their tweets to be private or public
- You can remove your tweets, but followers can still read what you wrote until it's gone.

Vine

Allows users to post and watch six-second videos that loop. Videos are often creative, and funny. Vine is used to post and share goofy videos of themselves, friends and/or family members

Parents:

- Inappropriate stuff
- Privacy concerns: Videos you post, the accounts you follow, comments you make are public. Unless you decide to allow only your followers to see what you post. Approve your followers.

Tumblr

It's an app that is in between a blog and Twitter: a scrapbook of texts, photos, videos, and audio clips. Users create and follow short blogs, or "tumbleblogs," anyone can see it online.

Parents:

- User must create two profiles for full privacy. The first one is public the second one is private and password protected

Pinterest

Allow users to create their own collage boards that are based on what you like to do and what your interested in. Boards can be personal things like your favorite teams in sports, your favorite hobbies, or how you envision your future.

Parents:

- Can have inappropriate material on your boards.

Secret Apps

What they don't want you to know

Snapchat



Allows users to send pictures and messages. With the pictures /videos users can put in a time limit of on how long another user can view the picture before they send it. Many users use this app to share goofy and embarrassing photos that lower the risk of them going public. Plus this is also used to tell stories about what is going on all over the world.

Parents:

- Myth that snapchat goes away forever. Anyone on the receiving end of the picture/video can take a screenshot and it will be there forever.
- For some users they will think because this is a risk-free messaging app then they can share pictures that can be claimed as "sexy."

Whisper

This is used as a "confessional" type of app. Users can post whatever is on their mind at anytime of the day. This also allows the teens that have raging hormones the freedom to share how they feel without feeling any type of judgement from someone.

Parents:

- Very sexual for some: try to hook up with people nearby and there is a "meet up" section.
- Topics can include: depression, insecurities, substance abuse and various lies told to employers or teacher.



Burn Note

Messaging app that deletes messages after a certain period of time.

This app limits itself to text messages compared to other apps. Teenagers that use this cannot send photos or videos.

Parents:

- Limit sexting for young girls
- Avoid taking screen shots of each others messages by only revealing a specific portion of the message.
- You can send messages to another teens that have the app but also to ones that don't.



Yik Yak

This app allows users to post brief comments like twitter. Users can find out secrets, opinions, rumors and etc. Plus, all the information posted on Yik Yak is within 1.5 mile radius of that person.

Parents:

- Reveals location unless remove sharing.
- Can be a mix of trouble: cyberbullying, sexually explicit content, and things about drugs and alcohol.

Dating Apps

You May or May Not Want to Know



Tinder: Photo, messaging, and dating app. Users browse numerous amount of photos of potential matches within a certain area of the user's location. Message each other to meet up and hook up.

Parents:

- It's all about the swipes. You swipe right to "like" a photo or left to "pass." If a person whose photo you "liked" swipes "like" on your photo, too, the app allows you to directly message each other.
- It's location – based.

MeetMe

Users can chat and meet new people. This app does have a "Match" feature where you can secretly admire others. With the user base that means guaranteed attention, and fastpaced communication.

Parents:

- Open network: users can chat with whomever is online. Also search locally for anyone in the area that is online.
- A lot of personal things are required: First and Last name, Age, and Zip Code or you can login using your Facebook account. Also you can use location service.



Omegle

Chat site or app that puts strangers together in their choice of a video chat room or text chat. All anonymous and have "interest boxes" where you can filter your potential chat partners by shared interests between partners.

Parents:

- There is no registration.
- This is NOT an app for kids or teens. Many users are looking for a sexual chat through video or porn sites.
- Explicit language.



Skout: It's a flirting app that you can sign up as a teen or adult. Then they are placed in the appropriate age group, they can post to a feed, comment on other's posts, add pictures, and chat. Looks at the geographical area when someone joins in that area. If someone "checks" them out, but you must pay points to see who it is.

Parents:

- Safest dating app for teens if used appropriately.
- Easy for teens and adults to lie about their real age.

Fun Apps

Subtitle Text



Users can do voice overs on their favorite and most popular songs. You can also make videos of you singing the songs you love. You can do it with anyone and send it to your friends via text message. It doesn't stop with just songs. It can be sayings from different movies, things that are popular on vine, tv shows, and so much more.

Parents:

Some songs have explicit language and derogatory language



This is an app for users that support sports all year round. They can follow their favorite teams and get updates on their favorite players and what the statistics are during the season.

Parents: This is harmless app it just allows you to keep up to date everything going on around the league.



Users can answer question on a certain topic to receive rewards. Once you receive every reward for each topic you win the game. You can challenge anyone you know that has the app or it can link up to your Facebook and you can play anyone on your friends list. It's actually a very educational app and the questions test you on topics such as geography, entertainment, history, sports, art, and science.

Parents: You can allow your child to play this game because it's educational and they are learning new things everyday.



For users to be able to look up there favorite songs and watch the music videos to those songs. As well as any funny videos and upload and videos of their own they want the world to see. They can follow their favorite people such as The Women's National Soccer Team or the Giants football team. You can also start trends with making funny and stupid videos. You can also look at informational videos of how to do anything or even make up tutorials for young girls.



Users can look up their favorite artists and follow them. They will be notified of any new singles or new stations the artist create. Also, it looks at what they are listening to and it links to Facebook, as well. You can see what your friends are listening to and if you have any of the same interests.

Parents: This is not a horrible app. It's a music app for your children, It's a safe way to listen to the music they love and not download it illegally.

West Virginia State Police
Crimes Against Children Unit
Internet Crimes Against Children

304-293-6400



wvicac@wvsp.gov

Start the Discussion:

When it comes to your child; they are looking for you to have an open conversation with them. You may think you are invading their privacy, but you are looking out for their best interest. You might end up surprising yourself on what your child tells you.

Questions to Start the Conversation.

- Do you have any social media accounts? If so, what are they?
- Do you know about being safe on the internet? Are you careful with what you post?
- Do you know everything you post stays on the internet no matter if you delete it or not?
- Is what you posted appropriate? How do you know that it's appropriate?
- Does it represent you? Is it how you would want other to see you?
- Is your account private or public?
- Do you post private information such as your phone number, address, or social security number?

The Best Apps You've Never Heard Of

	Price	Location	Social Media Posts	Texting Content	Internet	App Control	Driving	Call	Additional Comments
mSpy	\$200.00/ year	•	•	•	•	•		•	SnapChat , WhatsApp, Tinder, Facebook Messenger, Geo-fencing, Emails, Calendar
FlexSpy	\$149-\$349/year	•	•	•	•	•		•	FaceTime Spy, Take a Picture Skype, Kik, SMS Commands
Ignore No More	\$5.99							•	Disables phone with ignored call
Mama Bear	Free to \$25/6 months	•	•		•				Leave notifications, vehicle speed, new photos uploaded, Facebook and Twitter requests
MM Guardian	\$3.99/ Device to \$99.99 for a One Time License Family Plan	•		•	•	•	•	•	Time Limits, Call Block, Lock/Unlock phone remotely
Screen Time Parental Control	Free to \$40/year					•			Bedtime restrictions, Homework and Tasks, Daily Report
Mobile Guardian	Free 7 day trial then \$3.95 per month to \$38.95 per year				•	•		•	Geofencing, Block Camera Use, Disable Texting While Driving
TrueMotion Family	FREE	•					•		Driving Report Cards
React Mobile	Sidekick is \$70. The app is Free	•							Buy sidekick and it acts as a panic button, lets you create network of people
SecureTeen	\$40/year	•	•	•	•	•		•	Set schedule of apps, Facebook, Instagram
FamilyTime	\$1.15/ Month	•		•	•	•	•	•	Limit Screen Time, Activity Reports, PickMeUp alerts
TeenSafe	Free	•	•	•	•			•	Kik, WhatsApp, Instagram.
Life360	Free	•					•		Leave notifications, Track lost or stolen phones, Family Circles
Custodio	Free	•	•	•	•	•		•	Multi Device Time Limits

Resources to Help Ease Your Mind:

- www.common sense media.org
- www.safekidspro.com
- <http://mcgruff.org>