



15 APPS PARENTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT

Downloading new apps to communicate with peers is common among youth. The problem is that some apps might promote bullying and some are designed to hide data so you won't question it.

Before we talk about the apps here are some things you can do to protect your children.

- Talk with your child about social media and the dangers that come with it
- Make sure you personally approve every app on your child's phone
- Check privacy settings and set controls you're comfortable with
- Research apps and make sure it doesn't hide content from you.

Listed below are the 15 apps that police are warning parents can pose danger to their children.

- **Ask.fm** – encourages people to allow anonymous users to ask them questions. This can and often does open the door for online bullying.
- **Badoo/Bumble** – These are dating apps for adults, but teens are able to find ways to join.
- **Calculator%** – is an app that looks innocent but it's actually used to hide photos, videos, files and browser history.
- **Grindr** – is geared towards the LGBTQ community. It allows users to share photos and meet based on the phone's GPS location.
- **Holla** – is a video chat app that allows users to meet people all over the world.
- **Hot or Not** – encourages users to rate your looks. There is no age verification and users can send each other messages.
- **Kik** – specifically for kids but allows anyone to contact and send a direct message to your child.
- **Live.me** – is a live-streaming video app. You don't know who is watching and your child's location is revealed.
- **Meet Me** - Teens may think they are chatting with a fellow teen however; they may really be connecting with someone twice their age. The app encourages users to be very open and share personal details to "help" them build connections with fellow users.
- **Skout** – is a flirting app that's used to meet and chat with new people. Teens and adults are in different groups, but ages are not verified.
- **SnapChat** - one of the most popular apps in recent years. Users believe they can take a photo/video and it will disappear, new features including 'stories' allow users to view the content for up to 24 hours. Snapchat also allows users to see your location.
- **TikTok** - allows kids to create and share short videos. There are limited privacy controls, which makes users vulnerable to bullying and explicit content.
- **Whatsapp** – similar to SnapChat allows users to send text and voice messages, make voice and video calls, and share images worldwide. There are limited controls.
- **Whisper** – promotes sharing secrets with strangers. It can reveal a user's location so people can meet up.