

2020 Current Popular Teen App List for Parents / Carers, Teachers & Professionals

Social Media and Gaming Apps can be an area where extortion, exploitation and harm can occur for all users. **Parents MUST be active on the same apps & games as their children are using.** However, these apps can be used to help students create a digital tattoo to be proud of, impressing universities and future employers. When used appropriately, these apps will allow users to create an online portfolio of positive online accomplishments. Whilst this type of online behaviour will assist users ability to have a positive presence on these networks/apps, parents should consider having a continued dialogue with them and knowing that these networks are the place to start on social media. Also, parents / carers MUST be on the same apps your children are using. Never trust an app just because it looks safe. **Parents are the only reliable digital safety app.**



Green Smiley indicates that the App is safe when used appropriately and sticking to the guidelines.



Orange Neutral Smiley indicates Apps that should only be used by individuals who are; the correct age, use the App appropriately and with direct Adult involvement.



Red Unhappy Smiley indicate Apps that should be avoided and if not then only used by people who are the correct age and with parental supervision and permission.

Instagram (Owned by Facebook)

Age: 13+



Instagram is a free photo (and video) sharing application that allows users to take photos (and one-minute videos), apply a filter, and share it on the app. Instagram became very popular, and so Facebook bought them. Parents should know that Instagram also has private messaging feature which some children can use instead of texting. Instagram has also added some “disposable” features to try and copy Snapchat. Instagram can potentially be great if it is used in a positive manner for showcasing one’s accomplishments. Children can post from a mobile device (but not a desktop). That’s because Instagram is designed to be used on a mobile phone (but can be discovered by Google)



Twitter

Age: 13+



Twitter allows you to send messages with up to 140 characters in length (and include photos and videos). Twitter is a place where children feel they can diary their feelings, not realizing their Tweets are tied to their identity and able to be seen by colleges and employers. When a student is ready to be online, we suggest they consider Twitter but share very positive and constructive content on the network. They should leave negative talk to texting and phone calls.



Byte App (Vine of Old)

Age: 12+



The Byte app lets users watch, create, and share six-second video loops. Users can follow other Byte profiles, but profiles cannot be shared, and you can’t see how many followers someone else has. All videos posted to the app are automatically public. Users can like or comment on anyone else’s video, share it as a “rebyte”, or redistribute it through text, email, or another social media platform. There is a “flag” button to report inappropriate videos. Users can scroll up from the homepage to watch random videos. Or they can search for videos by username or from one of several categories.



Fortnite (Battle Royale)

Age 12+



Fortnite is a very popular game that was released in 2017. There are 2 different versions of the game; Fortnite: Save the World and Fortnite: Battle Royale. Fortnite: Battle Royale is the version that is popular with children. Fortnite is designed to keep players coming back which can be difficult for teens and tweens who haven't yet developed a healthy relationship with screen time. Also, children can come across profanity or inappropriate language from other players through text or voice chatting



Houseparty App

Age 14+

From the creators of Meerkat (an early Periscope competitor), Houseparty is a video chat app that lets teens video chat with 2-8 people at the same time. All chats are unmoderated which means children can encounter inappropriate content or cyberbullies.



Periscope (Owned by Twitter)

Age: 13+

Periscope is a live video app that was bought by Twitter. It allows users to watch and broadcast real time videos from their phones. It's easy to find your kids on Periscope if you know their Twitter usernames. Most of the content on this app is unmonitored and children can watch live videos from all over the world.



Snapchat

Age: 13+



Snapchat promises your kids they can take a photo/video, send it to a friend and the content will only be viewed once and then will disappear. We as adults know that's not true, but children feel ok sharing very personal moments on Snapchat as they begin to trust people. Snapchat also has a "story" feature that lets users share some videos/posts for 24 hours on their feed. Snapchat is quickly growing and is one of the more valuable social media startups we have seen. It's not going away anytime soon. Parents should add their children on the app and occasionally view their content.



Twitch

Age: 13+

Twitch is a live streaming video platform owned by Amazon where users watch people live stream themselves as they play video games (and live chat with viewers). Twitch is the leading live streaming video service for video games in the US and contains lots of chances for your students to chat live with friends (and strangers) on the platform. No matter how you configure your student's Twitch security settings, there is no way to know if content is safe for your student unless you become familiar with the platform and review their favourite videos or streamers



WhatsApp Messenger (Owned by Facebook)

Age: 16+

WhatsApp is a mobile messenger that allows children to use wifi to bypass their SMS/Text messaging feature and directly message other users on the app. This app is owned by Facebook. It is very popular with people who have international friends/family. Users can share their location and contacts with other users. WhatsApp allows kids to communicate with their friends using the app and bypass text messaging



Kik Messenger App (Based in Canada)

Age: 17+

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 children 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.



Monkey App

Age: 13+



The Monkey app randomly pairs users with strangers for a 15 second video chat. When signing up, users connect their Snapchat usernames and phone numbers to the app. Users see the age and gender of the other user before connecting with them in a 15 second chat. We highly recommend deleting the



Monkey app if your child has it because random video chatting apps make it easy for teens to be targeted by predators.

Omegle App

Age: 18+



Omegle is an anonymous text and video chat room that connects strangers to talk with each other. The app allows you to share personal information and contains inappropriate and unmoderated



content. Omegle's slogan is: "Talk to strangers!" Omegle also has a video chat feature. The content in video chat rooms is not moderated by administrators

SpotaFriend

Age: 14+



Spotafriend is an app strictly for teens designed to help them find friends. We discourage children from using Spotafriend since there have been instances of adults being able to easily bypass the age



restriction. Also, this app can be used by predators to try and target victims nearby.



Tumblr (Bought by Yahoo/Verizon)

Age: 13+

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.



Wattpad

Age: 17+



Wattpad is a relatively unmoderated online storytelling community. One of the major concerns with Wattpad is that teens are posting explicit and inappropriate stories that are connected to their personal Facebook profiles (and shows their profile photo). Learn how easy it is for your student to access explicit content on Wattpad, how predators are using this site to contact teens, and more.



Yubo App (Formerly Called Yellow)

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 App

Age: 18+



Tinder is a dating app, marketed to adults, that allows users to connect with other Tinder users. Users anonymously swipe right if they're interested in seeing a user's profile or they swipe left to pass. If



both users express interest or "swipe right" on each other then those users become a match. Once a user has been matched with another Tinder user they can start chatting with each other in the app. When signing up, users must use a Facebook profile to verify their authenticity to Tinder.

Tik Tok App

Age: 12+



The Tik Tok app is a music video social media platform. Musical.ly was purchased by the creators of Tik Tok and Musical.ly discontinued their app and transferred all the users to the Tik Tok app/servers in China. This app is popular because it mixes self-deprecating humour with the latest pop music songs.



In our experience, apps like Tik Tok can allow strangers to direct message your children (and consume a large amount of time, without creating a positive online footprint for your student).

We Chat (Based in China)

Age: 12+ WeChat



is a free texting, video, and calling app developed in China. WeChat is one of the top 50 most popular social media apps in the iTunes store with over 980 million active users. WeChat encourages users to chat with strangers nearby or around the world, at random. This feature is incredibly dangerous for teens and young adults.



YOLO App

Age: 12+ The Yolo



app is an anonymous Q&A app that works seamlessly with Snapchat. If your children use Snapchat, it is very likely that they will encounter the YOLO app. If your child has the YOLO app, we recommend that they delete it and stick to using Snapchat on its own with parental supervision.



Likee App

Age: This is



classified as a Photo & Video app, but as soon as you sign up, a list of people to follow is populated for you. It is possible to start following 10 people without even browsing the app. The app allows, special effects video shooting and editing, with liking and comments on videos (even if you don't follow them). There are some minimal privacy settings and private messaging is available. Likee can feature inappropriate content, including suggestive language & violence. You CANNOT make an account private



Melon App

Age: 17+



Melon is a video chatting and messaging app that connects strangers across the globe. The Melon app is available on both Apple and Android. This app features in-app purchases and advertisements. The Melon app allows users to connect by just tapping a button. Users can chat with as many different individuals as they like, and the app records a history of chats so you can revisit and chat with your "new found" friends in the future. Certain filters allow users to talk with people in more specifically selected regions.



Peeks App

Age: 17+ Peeks

Social is a monetised, video streaming app. This app is available for both iOS and Android devices. It is rated for users 17 years of age and older offers in app purchases.



Mixer App

Age 17+



Mixer is a live streaming app by Microsoft with an emphasis on social networking and gaming. Mixer is free to download and use but does feature select in-app purchase opportunities. This app is safe for mature teens with parental supervision



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