

The ICCAC's intention is not to determine whether an app is considered "good" or "bad", but rather to bring awareness to specific apps that have the potential to be harmful to children. It's important to remember this list is constantly changing. App designers continuously add additional safety protections, and predators persistently move to new apps with fewer restrictions in an effort to better target children.

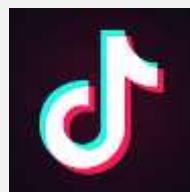
Zoomerang



Purpose: Zoomerang is one of the most popular apps right now. It is a simple video creator that allows you to capture short videos, apply filters, and add special effects and background music.

Why Parents Should Be Worried: One of the features that is cause for concern with Zoomerang is location tracking. This can allow online predators to see where your child is located when using the app. The Zoomerang app is rated E for Everyone, but as is the case anywhere where your child can share videos of themselves, there is risk involved.

TikTok



Purpose: TikTok is an app for creating and sharing short videos. Users can create short music videos of 3 to 15 seconds and short looping videos of 3 to 60 seconds. It encourages users to express themselves creatively through video. Special effects can be added to the videos.

Why Parents Should Be Worried: Thirteen is the minimum age, but there isn't a real way to validate age so anyone can download the app. Also, parents express concern that there is a lot of inappropriate language in the videos so it's not appropriate for young children. Lastly, by default, all accounts are set to public so strangers can contact your children.

You Tube



Purpose: YouTube is a place to house and share your videos. You can control privacy settings. It's also a great resource for educational videos and entertainment.

Why Parents Should Worry: Inappropriate content has been sliced into both all-ages content and children's content. Also, comments on videos can be extremely inappropriate and hurtful. YouTube also has a known pedophile problem which is a major cause for concern.

Tellonym



Purpose: Tellonym is an anonymous messenger app. It calls itself “the most honest place on the internet.” This app is extremely popular in middle schools and high schools and it allows kids to ask and answer questions anonymously.

Why Parents Should Worry: It is a regular occurrence to see cyber bullying, violent threats, and sexual content. It also offers unmonitored access to the internet.

Bigo Live



Purpose: Bigo is a live streaming app. Users can vlog about their lives, live stream video game play, and host their own shows.

Why Parents Should Worry: It is rated for 17+, but there is no age verification and users have to provide personal info like their age and location. This is a place where bullying, nudity, violence, and profanity is common.

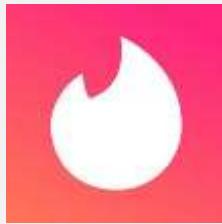
IMVU



Purpose: This is a virtual world game like SIMS. Users interact with each other as avatars. IMVU stands for Instant Messaging Virtual Universe.

What Parents Should Worry: There is nudity and sexual encounters in areas that are for 18+, but there is sexual talk and behaviors in the regular area of IMVU as well. There is a Chat Now feature that randomly pairs users with other users and can lead to inappropriate pairings and interactions. All profiles are public, and there can be bullying and predators trying to get other users to share their phone numbers and to send pictures.

Tinder



Purpose: Tinder's developers describe the app as "the fun way to connect with new and interesting people around you." But it's mainly used as a dating app or an anonymous hook-up locator by 20-somethings, college students, and even younger teens and tweens.

Why Parents Should Worry: The app is rated ages 17+ but Tinder's privacy policy allows teens as young as 13 to register (the app connects with Facebook — which is also technically for ages 13+ — to pull in photos for users' Tinder profiles). Tinder helps people find others in their geographic location and allows users to view each other's' photos and start instant messaging once both people have "liked" one another. The location features and anonymous nature of the app put kids at risk for sexual harassment, stalking, and worse.

ASKfm



Purpose: ASKfm app allows users to interact in a question-and-answer format — with friends, peers, and anonymous users alike.

Why Parents Should Worry: The app is rated ages 13+ and is most popular in Europe but is catching on in the U.S. Some kids have used the app for hurtful cyberbullying that has been linked to suicides, including the death of 12-year-old Rebecca Sedwick of Florida. British schools have sent home letters calling for students to stop using ask.fm because of its use in several cyberbullying incidents there, and its loose regulation and lack of monitoring

KiK



Purpose: Kik is a mobile app that people can use to text with friends at high speed and with more of a "face-to-face feel" than regular texting (users' profile pictures appear in a little bubble next to their text, and they can quickly text photos, sketches, or even pre-designed greeting cards to individuals or groups).

Why Parents Should Worry: The app is rated ages 17+, but there is no age verification so anyone can download it. Like some other instant messenger apps, Kik allows your teen to connect with others using just a username (rather than texting from her phone number). Reviews in the App Store and Google Play store reveal that many people use Kik to meet strangers for sexting. The app also been connected with cyberbullying.

Snapchat



Purpose: Snapchat is an app that allows users to send photos and videos that disappear after they're received. It's rated ages 12+. The filters and special effects allow users to alter pictures.

Why Parents Should Worry: Some kids are using the app to send racy pics because they believe the images can't be saved and circulated. But it turns out that Snapchat pics don't completely disappear from a device, and users can take a screenshot before an image vanishes in the app. "disappearing photo" apps like Snapchat might embolden kids to send more explicit photos and texts than they would have before through traditional texting.

Whisper



Purpose: This app's motto is: "Share Secrets, Express Yourself, Meet New People." It has a similar feel to the now-defunct PostSecret app, which was discontinued shortly after its release because it filled up with abusive content.

Why Parents Should Worry: Whisper lets users set up anonymous accounts to make their messages or confessions overlap an image or graphic (similar to e-postcards), which other users can then "like," share, or comment on. While it allows for creative expression, it can also take overly personal content viral. The app also shows a user's location.

Tumblr



Purpose: Many children and young teens are also active on this 17+ photo-sharing app. It can also be used for sharing videos and chatting.

Why Parents Should Worry: Often referred as "too raunchy for tykes" because users can easily access pornographic, violent, and inappropriate content. Users need to jump through hoops to set up privacy settings — and until then, all of a user's photo and content is public for all to see. Mental health experts say that Tumblr can be damaging to adolescents' mental health because it tends to glorify self-harm and eating disorders.

Instagram



Purpose: Instagram is a hugely popular photo-sharing site owned by Facebook, so you may be more familiar with it than with other photo-sharing apps. Users can add cool filters or create collages of their photos and share them across Facebook and other social media platforms.

Why Parents Should Worry: The app is rated 13+ and may be slightly tamer than Tumblr, but users can still find mature or inappropriate content and comments throughout the App. "Trolls" — or people making vicious, usually anonymous comments — are common. A user can change the settings to block their location or certain followers, but many users are casual about their settings, connecting with people they don't know well or at all.

Live.Me



Purpose: Live.Me is a live broadcasting app popular with teens. ... Using Live. Me, users can create a broadcast and grow a fan base of followers and new friends. They can meet other broadcasters. They can even date, play games, and send virtual gifts to other Live. Me users.

Why Parents Should Worry: Site has content that contains profanity, crude humor, and plenty of sexual videos. sexual predators can use "coins" to "pay" for photos of children online.

Badoo



Purpose: A dating and social media app intended for adults only allows users to chat and share photos and videos based on location.

Why Parents Should Worry: App display the distance between you and the person of interest. By moving around and analyzing this distance data, you may be able to determine a person's precise location.

WhatsApp



Purpose: A messaging app that allows texts, video calls, photo sharing and voicemails with users worldwide.

Why Parents Should Worry: There is an inherent danger present on all apps that allow anyone to contact others. For example, maybe a “friend of a friend” gets added to a group chat, but this person is not really who they say they are. In these kinds of situations, sexual predators can target children and groom them in an attempt to get them to share inappropriate photos, sometimes with an ultimate goal of secretly meeting in real life.

There is also a growing trend of mobile app's that hide password-protected explicit content, photos, videos, and browser history. Some even provide decoy videos and alarm settings. Here are a few of the more popular ones:

Calculator+



Best Secret Folder



Vaulty



KeepSafe



Private Photo Vault



Galley Vault



Before disguise

After disguise

Tips for Parents

You can't join every site or app and monitor your child's every move online; kids will always find a new platform that their parents don't know about yet. Rather than hovering or completely barring your child from downloading every social media app, sit down with them and go over some general rules to help keep them safe online.

*Make a rule that your child must ask for permission before downloading any apps, even free ones, just so you're aware of them.

*When your child wants to join a new social media platform, go through the security settings together to choose the ones you're most comfortable with.

* Remind your child not to share passwords with anyone, including best friends, boyfriends, or girlfriends.

*Talk to your kids about the dangers and consequences of social media.

*Check your child's privacy settings regularly.

*Make sure they're not posting personal details, including phone numbers, address, or check-ins.

*Educate yourself about social media. Start by finding out what kind of apps and sites your child is interested in. Read app reviews, age limits, and fine print.