16+ APPS PARENTS & FAMILIES NEED TO KNOW

Potential harm can come from anywhere — some social media-based apps can open doors to predators and cyberbullies. Please review these apps with your family, and have open conversations with your children and teens about how they spend they spend their time on their smartphone or tablet.
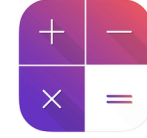
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Among Us is a 4 -10 multiplayer deduction game in which players try to "sus" out the imposter. Players have the ability to message one another and are teamed at random - leaving children open to cyberbullying and explicit content.

ASKfm encourages users to allow anonymous people to ask them questions. The app is known for cyberbullying.
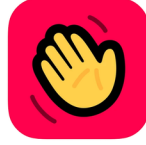
BIGO is a live streaming app. It is rated for teens 17+. Users can vlog about their lives, live stream video game play, and host their own shows. This app has been known to facilitate cyberbullying and often contains explicit content.

Calculator+ is only one of several secret "vault" apps. Posing as a fully functioning calculator app, Calculator+ is cleverly disguised to hide and hold private files like photos, messages, and browser history.

Holla is a self-procalimed 'addicting' video chat app that allows users to meet people all over the world in just seconds. Reviewers say they have been confronted with racial slurs, explicit content, and more.

Houseparty allows users to communicate with each other via texts and video chats in a room. Videos are live and unscreened - potentially exposing chidlren to inappropriate content. Users also have the ability to take screenshots and send links through chat.

IMVU (Instant Messaging Virtual Universe) is a virtual world game like SIMS. Users interact as virutal avatars. The Chat Now feature randomly pairs users together and can lead to inappropriate pairings and interactions.

Kik is a texting app with 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).
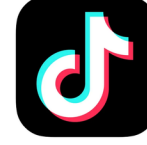
Snapchat is a 12+ app that allows users to send photos and videos that disappear after they're received. Users have been known to send explicit photos. While the images "disappear," users can take a screenshot before it vanishes.

Telegram offers self-destructing messaging making the app unsuitable for kids and teens – anyone can send adult and inappropriate content. Usernames are public and can be searched by anyone.

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.

TikTok is a popular app with kids used for creating and sharing short videos. With very limited privacy controls, users are vulnerable to cyberbullying and explicit content.
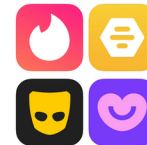
Tumblr is a 17+ photo-sharing app. It can also be used for sharing videos and chatting. Users can easily access pornographic, violent, and inappropriate content

Whisper is an anonymous social network that promotes sharing secrets with strangers. It also reveals a user's location so people can meet up. A12-year-old girl was reportedly raped by a 21-year-old man who met on the app.

YOLO (You Only Live Once) allows users to communicate over Snapchat anonymously. This app provides an opportunity for luring, grooming, and cyberbullying.

Dating Apps like **Tinder, Bumble, Grindr, and Badoo** (to name a few) use GPS tracking to show nearby users interested in flirting, dating, and/or sex. These apps have been known to have users with fake accounts with false information (age, gender, etc.) and as a gateway to obtain personal information, lure, and groom children.

*These apps are based on recommendations from law enforcement agencies across the country, as well as trusted parenting blog. **Please note that this list is by no means exhaustive and changes frequently.** Published April 2021

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