

# Apps Every Parent/Caregiver Should Know



Attention Parents and Caregivers: What do you know about these popular apps? These apps are designed for a variety of uses including social networking, dating, posting videos and photos, and more. The problem for parents is that these apps are not exclusive for kids. Reports confirm that youth have been bombarded by explicit messages from potential predators on various apps. Experts have warned that some of these apps may put your teen in danger. Learn more about these apps and how to better protect youth.

## Most Popular Apps Used By Teens



**Snapchat:** Used to send photos, videos, and text. Parents: Be aware you don't have the ability to monitor what your teen sends/receives as uploads 'expire' upon being viewed/sent unless specifically saved. Remind teens to be mindful of what they send as the viewer can take a screenshot before it expires. This app also features a personal map that shows the users location and location of others unless the setting is on "ghost mode". Reports have found Illicit drugs advertised and sold through this app.



**TikTok:** Used to create and share short videos with minimal privacy controls which could enable cyberbullying and explicit content to occur. Reports have found Illicit drugs advertised and sold through this app.



**Instagram:** Used to share photos, videos, and chat with friends. Reports have found Illicit drugs advertised and sold through this app.

## Secret Apps Used For Hiding Photos, Videos, And More



This app appears like musical notes but is used to hide photos, videos, and docs through an impenetrable lock screen or disguise screen that acts as if app crashes when someone tries to access. This app features an escape unlock code that makes the app appear empty if discovered. Also allows emailing of photos/videos.



Appears like a calculator but used to hide photos, videos, docs, passwords, notes, audios, files, and more. Features a panic switch allowing users to quickly switch to another app, a disguise mode that creates a fake error message box, and a hack monitor that logs all invalid password attempts.

# Dating And Social Networking Apps You Should Know About



**Discord:** Advertised as “Friends, Communities & Gaming” enables users to text, voice, and video chat based on shared interests and allows communication while gaming and screen sharing for drawing sessions.



**Tumblr:** Enables users to create, view, and repost blogs containing any material. Drug use, offensive language, and pornography can easily be found.



**Kik:** Enables users to chat with friends and strangers through direct messaging and group chats. Also allows sharing of photos, videos, games, and more.



**LiveMe:** Advertised as “Video Chat & Make Friends” enables livestream, video chat, and creation of groups with people who share similar interests.



**Yubo:** Advertised as “Make friends around the world” enables users to connect through chat and livestream, swiping on profiles, and playing games such as “Would You Rather” and “To Be Honest.”



**Plenty of Fish:** Advertised as “Date, Chat, Meet Singles” enables users to swipe and match with singles nearby and connect using chat and livestream.



**Moco:** Advertised as “Chat, flirt & meet new people” and as the largest social networking app for African Americans and Hispanics/Latinos enables private and group chats, livestream, video and voice calls.



**Bumble:** Advertised as “Match, Date & Meet New People” enables dating, friend-finding, and career-building to happen in one place featuring video chat and women must initiate first move.



**Hily:** Advertised as “Discover. Connect. Find Friends” enables users to chat, video call, and meet locally.



**Grindr:** Advertised as “Meet & Date Local LGBTQ People.” This app targets gay, bi, trans, and queer people enabling photo sharing, chat, and location sharing.



**Whisper:** Enables users to express themselves anonymously through posts, chats, and videos. This app also connects users with similar interests through group and private chats. Users can share their location to meet.



**Skout:** Advertised as “Meet, Chat, Go Live” enables livestream, video chat. Users can meet people by preference and proximity, browse profiles and photos, and go on virtual dates.



**Badoo:** Advertised as “Match, Date & Meet New People” this app encourages users to be honest to meet people by similar interests and location. Features swiping on interested profiles, video chat, and intimate photo sharing.



**ASKfm:** Advertised as “Ask. Chat. Repeat. Anonymously” enables users to ask/answer questions, create chat threads and photo polls anonymously or by open secret sharing. Allows location sharing.



**WhatsApp:** Advertised as “Simple. Reliable. Private” enables users to message, group chat, and share photos, videos, and status updates that disappear after 24 hours.





**Zoosk:** Advertised as “Match, Chat, & Meet New People” enables users to swipe, search, chat, go on dates, and includes a feature called carousel which matches users with random strangers.



**Chat & Date:** Advertised as “Meet new people & make friends” enables people to meet nearby, swiping on interested profiles, video chat, and intimate photo sharing.



**Omegle:** Advertised as the “naughty sexy global dating app.” This app enables instant and random connections through video chat.



**MeetMe:** Advertised as “Go Live, Chat, & Meet People” enables users to find others nearby to chat and meet.

## Examples Of Apps Parents/Caregivers Should Have For Location Tracking And Parental Controls

**Location Tracker Apps** - These apps allow you to track your child’s location.



**Life360:** Features include location tracker and 2 days of location history, place alerts, speed detection to encourage safer driving, crash detection, notification to alert if child has low battery, and SOS to send silent alert with location to family, emergency contacts, and responders.



**Find My Kids:** Features include location tracker, loud bell to ring on child’s phone if muted, and notifications to alert if child has low battery and if SOS button pressed.



**Find My Friends and Family:** Features include location tracker, smart circles for group tracking, geo-fence zones to notify when departing/arriving at certain locations, and an emergency SOS function that allows users to give an urgent push notification with location update to members in circle.

**Parental Control Apps**- These apps feature screen time allowing you to control the amount of time your teen is on their phone and apps.

**Tip: If you have an iPhone, you can control your child’s screen time by the ‘Screen Time’ function within your ‘Settings’ App.**



**OurPact:** Features include possible screen time monitoring/limiting, text/app/website blocker, family locator, and screen-shot of child’s online activity.



**Google Family Link:** Features include possible screen time monitoring/limiting, location tracker, activity reports, device locker, and app manager.



**Net Nanny:** Features include possible screen time monitoring/limiting, app blocker, and instant reporting of internet searches and alerts if child viewed porn, drugs, weapons, suicide, or similar content.

**Note: You can find these and others by searching in the app store on your smartphone**

### References:

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