



APPS: where the kids live

With the widespread use of smartphones among preteens and teens, the increased use and availability of mobile apps has become a distraction in their lives and are being used for cyberbullying, sexting and accessing pornography, not just at home, but in school as well. With that in mind, parents should be aware of these popular apps.

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Instant messaging app that acts as a free texting application; no parental controls; common avenue for sexting



INSTAGRAM

Adult content can frequently appear on this photo and video sharing app

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Twitter video app that allows users to create and share 6-second videos; age limit set at 17+ after pornographic and suggestive clips began appearing.

SNAPCHAT



Photo messaging app; users take photos, record videos, and text and drawings, and send them to recipients with a set time limit for how long recipients can view their "snaps" (1 to 10 seconds), content is deleted from recipients device after set time frame, but not Snapchat servers



SECRET CALCULATOR

Vault or "ghost" apps show up on a smartphone as a normal app such as a calculator, but enter a password and you'll unlock a vault of secret photos and videos

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Allows users to upload video status updates and share video content through major social media networks; no privacy settings

TINDER



Online dating app allows users 12+ to view profiles and connect with users within a geographical area

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Allows users to hide apps from their screen.

ASK.FM



Allows users to ask questions from other Ask.fm users with the option of anonymity; often used for cyberbullying

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This app was rebranded after it was removed from the App Store; intended to match Facebook friends for, among other things, casual sexual encounters



OMEGLE & CHATROULETTE

Chat services that allow anonymous users to randomly chat with strangers using instant messaging, video (webcam), or microphone



WHISPER



Users submit anonymous questions or confessions as text over a photo or graphic; other users are allowed to comment and send private messages; carries a 17+ rating

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Messaging app that works without a data plan of WiFi network; users can send texts using iPads or iPods on a closed network within a 100-foot area

TUMBLR

Microblogging service that allows users to create content and post media on a short-form blog; high amount of pornographic material



MEETME

MeetMe is the app version of the online flirting and social networking website formerly called MyYearbook. The primary uses of MeetMe are to meet new people and interact with them online. Much of the communication has "flirty" overtones.

TWITTER



Another network with worldwide popularity, Twitter is also liable to contain adult and other inappropriate content that is easily accessed

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Allows users to post anonymous comments to other users in a 10 mile radius; used for threats and cyberbullying; app was intended for "college age and above"