



EDUCATE YOURSELF

INTERNET SAFETY TOOLS

KidLogger

KIDLOGGER: A useful and free app to help you learn what your children are doing on a computer or smartphone.

www.kidlogger.net



SCREENTIME APP: Manage your children's screen time and app usage on both Android and iOS mobile devices with this amazing Parental Control App. Set time limits, use content blocker and location tracker, and more.

Of Note:

With the explosion of the tech industry and the dramatic increase in internet availability over the past few decades, "apps" have become a significant part of the world we live in. While apps offer many positive features, like any technology they also possess the potential for danger.

Here is a list of apps commonly used by predators in their attempts to groom and recruit vulnerable youth, however the list is constantly changing so we recommend you do your own research. Most states have websites providing resources for parents to protect their children online. In the state of Michigan, you can find resources for internet and social media safeguards at www.protectmichild.com/.

NOTEWORTHY APPS TO MONITOR

Facebook, Instagram, X, TikTok

These apps allow users to post whatever content they wish and access the content of other users. Predators can look for vulnerable youth and message them freely. Facebook requires a friend request. TikTok, Instagram, and X allow for private accounts, but only if the user opts to use this feature. However any user can request to send a message to another. In addition, colleges and employers look at what children post when making decisions about their future. **Be on these apps if your children are.**



Keep in mind, while you can send messages to most users on these platforms, whether they see or receive them often depends on their privacy settings and your level of connection. Messages to users you're not connected with usually appear as message requests, which they can choose to accept or ignore.

THIS INFORMATION IS NOT EXHAUSTIVE. PLEASE DO YOUR OWN RESEARCH.

RESOURCE: WOMEN AT RISK, INTERNATIONAL



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NOTEWORTHY APPS TO MONITOR CONTINUED

Snapchat



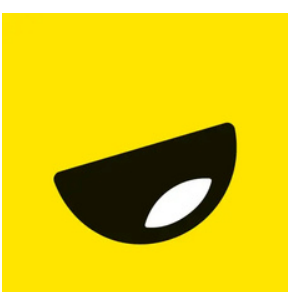
Users can send a photo to other users which then disappears after it is viewed. Users can screenshot these pictures and save them to their personal device. There is a feature called SnapMap where users can find other account users' locations in real time.

Tango



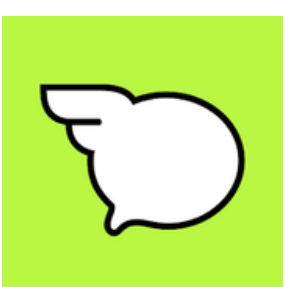
Tango profiles are public by default, allowing anyone to view them. If privacy is a concern, parents should make sure their child's profile is set to private. Because Tango uses geo-location, it can connect users with nearby strangers—making active parental oversight essential. It's also important for parents to be aware of the content shared on the platform and how it may affect their child. The Tango app is rated 17+.

Yubo



Yubo is a social networking app aimed at teens and young adults (even though no age verification is required), helping them connect with new people, and build friendships around the world. It features swipe-based matching (similar to Tinder), live streaming, and interest tags to support social discovery. Although its main focus is friendship, the app is often used for dating and other types of social interaction.

Jott



Allows teens to communicate with each other without a cell signal or Wi-Fi, using bluetooth or a router that's within 100 feet to create something called a "mesh network" on smart devices. Note: As of 2020, this app is no longer available for download on iOS App Store or on Google Play.

Kik



A messaging app that requires no verification of identity. Users are almost impossible to track down.

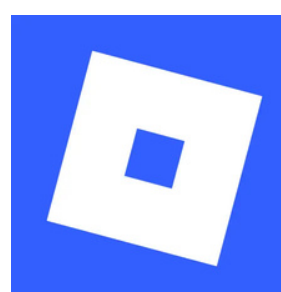
Kik isn't really "still a thing" in terms of being a major, actively maintained messaging app. While it technically still exists, its parent company, Kik Interactive, has largely shut it down and ceased major development.

MyLOL



Although MYLOL was once a popular app, it is no longer available on Google Play or the App Store. However, the website remains active. Authorities in some countries—including police—have issued warnings to parents about potential dangers on the platform, including predatory behavior and inappropriate content.

Roblox



A multiplayer online game which allows users to create their own levels and play levels created by others. There are parental controls, but even with these turned on, predators have found ways to communicate with children through the game. Third-party messaging apps used by predators may look like they are a legitimate part of the game. In addition, characters can be made to perform sexual tasks.

Line



Allows users to make free voice calls and send free text messages - even without the use of WiFi. Very similar to Jott.

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NOTEWORTHY APPS TO MONITOR CONTINUED

Calculator - Hide Photo, Video



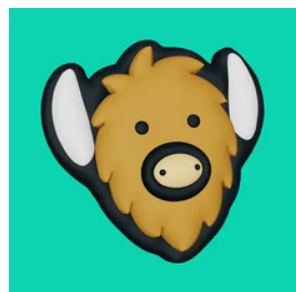
Calculator - Hide Photo, Video and other apps like it allow users to create password protected, secret photo and video storage. These items are not stored anywhere else on the device because once the photo or video is moved to the app it completely disappears from the camera roll. Users could use these apps to store explicit photos.

Down



This app is intended to connect people nearby who want to date or hook up - very similar to Tinder (swipe left or right depending on whether or not you think the person is hot) - where it is based on a score users give to each other. App Store rates this as 17+ for "frequent/intense or mature /suggestive themes and infrequent/mild sexual content and nudity."

Yik Yak



All posts, comments, and messages are anonymous. It is location based, serving as a bulletin board and known for bullying. Currently it is available on the Apple Store but not on the Google Play Store.

LiveMe+: Live Stream & Go Live



LiveMe+ encourages users to broadcast themselves and interact with millions of strangers worldwide through live video and chat. While it's promoted as a place to share talents and make friends, it also opens the door to exposure to inappropriate content, online predators, and unsafe interactions. Teens can easily stream from anywhere—often without filters or supervision—making this app a serious concern for parents.

Hide Photos Video - Hide it Pro



Another vault application, this one looks like a simple audio managing app at the start, but a simple password lets users hide photos, videos, and other apps that they don't want others to see. Some apps like this can allow for storage of personal files.

Discord Chat



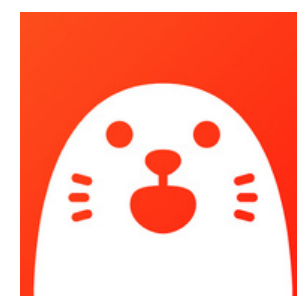
Originally a gaming app. It is now a space for users to talk, play, and hang out. It allows communication via voice and video. Real names are not required upon sign up. This app is rated "Teen" on the Play Store and the age limit to sign-up is 13. It is designed that the users are in control of their interactions on Discord.

Skout - Meet, Chat, Go Live



This is a location-based dating app that is rated "M" for Mature 17+. Even though the app doesn't allow 17-year-olds to share private photos, teens can easily lie about their age to get around these rules.

HOLLA - Live Video Call



With over 30 million users across 190 countries, HOLLA connects strangers through live video, voice, and text chats—often at the tap of a screen. While marketed as a way to make new friends, this app can expose teens to inappropriate content, unsolicited interactions, and potentially dangerous individuals. Parents should be aware: every "unique adventure" may come with serious risks.

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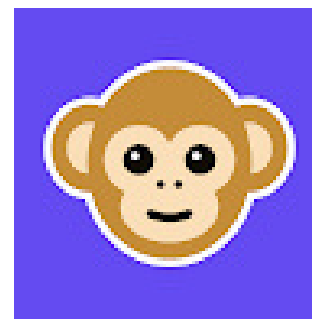
NOTEWORTHY APPS TO MONITOR CONTINUED

Among Us



A popular multiplayer game where 4-15 players work together—online or over local WiFi—to complete tasks and identify an impostor whose goal is to eliminate others. While seemingly harmless, the game allows unfiltered chat with strangers and encourages deception and role-playing that may be concerning for younger players. Parents should be aware of potential exposure to inappropriate language, online interactions with unknown users, and themes that may not be age-appropriate.

Monkey - make new friends



Monkey connects users—mostly teens—with strangers through live video chats, making it quick and easy to meet people from around the world. Although it's promoted as a fun space for self-expression and making friends, the app exposes young users to unmonitored video content, potential predators, and inappropriate behavior. With over 30 million users, it's nearly impossible to guarantee safe or age-appropriate interactions. Parents should be aware: Monkey may look harmless, but it carries serious safety risks.

Twitch



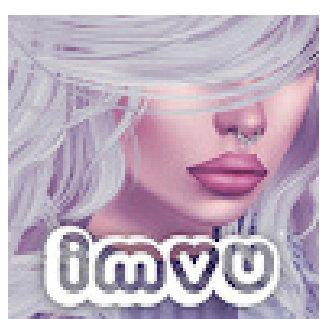
Twitch is a live-streaming platform where users—many of them teens—can watch and interact with streamers sharing everything from video games to real-life content. While it offers entertainment and community, it also exposes young users to unfiltered chat, mature content, and potential online predators. With millions of active users and little control over what's streamed or said, parents should be cautious: Twitch may not be a safe space for younger audiences.

Tellonym



This app allows users to send and receive anonymous messages, often promoted as a way to get honest feedback and connect with friends. However, the app's anonymous format can easily lead to cyberbullying, harassment, and harmful comments—without accountability. Teens may feel pressured to engage or respond, which can affect their mental health. Parents should know: what seems like harmless feedback can quickly turn toxic in anonymous spaces like Tellonym.

IMVU: Social Chat & Avatar app



IMVU is a 3D virtual world where users create avatars, chat, and interact in virtual spaces with strangers and friends alike. While it's advertised as a fun, creative social experience, it exposes teens to mature themes, unfiltered chat, and potentially inappropriate content. With millions of global users, IMVU can become a place where grooming, explicit roleplay, and unsafe interactions occur—often without parental oversight. Parents should be aware: IMVU is more than just a dress-up game—it can be a risky and unregulated digital environment.

Bumble Dating App: Meet & Date



Bumble is a popular dating app where users connect through swipes and messaging—often with women initiating conversations. While it's marketed as a platform built on respect and inclusivity, it still allows teens to interact with strangers, share personal information, and be exposed to adult content. The app is rated for mature audiences, but age restrictions can be bypassed. Parents should be aware: Bumble is not just about dating—it can open the door to unsafe and inappropriate interactions.

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NOTEWORTHY APPS TO MONITOR CONTINUED

Clubhouse



Clubhouse is a live social audio platform where users can drop into virtual “rooms” and join real-time voice conversations on a wide range of topics.

Zoosk



Zoosk concerns often include fake profiles, high costs, difficult cancellations, and poor customer service, along with slow performance and many inactive users.

Best Secret Folder



Concerns with “Best Secret Folder” and similar vault apps include data tracking risks, bugs that can cause data loss, and weak disguise features. Despite the purpose of these apps, content may still be exposed if a device is compromised, and may be detectable.

Grindr



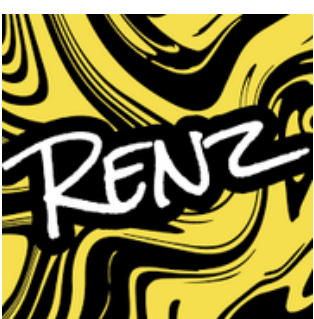
Grindr, a popular LGBTQ+ hookup app, raises concerns around safety and privacy, including scams, blackmail, potential exploitation, data breaches, and limited moderation.

Hoop



Hoop is a high-risk app for kids, functioning like a dating platform tied to Snapchat where users connect with strangers—raising risks of grooming, bullying, and explicit content. Weak age verification and limited parental controls add to the concern.

Renz



Renz is a swipe-based friend-finding app that can expose kids to strangers. That, along with weak age checks and inappropriate content, raises concerns similar to other social platforms.

Element



Element is a secure, decentralized messaging and collaboration platform built on the Matrix open standard, offering private, end-to-end encrypted chats, file sharing, and voice and video calling.

MocoSpace / Moco



Moco (formerly MocoSpace) is a mobile social app often criticized for safety risks, including scams, fake profiles, explicit content, weak moderation, and intrusive ads—making it especially unsafe for minors.

MeetMe



MeetMe is a social and dating app with notable safety risks—especially for minors—including exposure to predators, scams, explicit content, and potential sextortion through open interactions with strangers.

WhatsApp



WhatsApp (13+) poses risks for kids, including cyberbullying, stranger contact, and inappropriate content—made harder to monitor due to encrypted messaging, disappearing chats, and auto-saved media.

Reddit



Reddit poses risks for kids due to anonymous users, limited parental controls, and easy access to unmoderated, adult content—along with concerns like cyberbullying, grooming, and addictive browsing.

Whisper



Whisper is an anonymous, location-based app that’s unsafe for minors, exposing them to strangers, sexual content, and cyberbullying. Weak age checks and misleading anonymity add to the risk.

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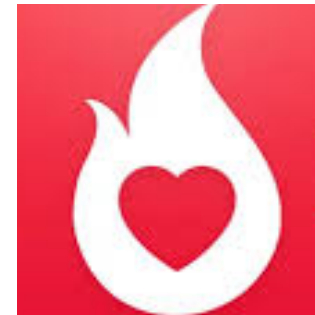
NOTEWORTHY APPS TO MONITOR CONTINUED

Ask.fm



Ask.fm poses risks for kids due to anonymous Q&A that can fuel cyberbullying, expose them to inappropriate content, and encourage sharing personal information with strangers.

Hot or Not



Hot or Not poses risks for kids by encouraging connections with strangers with weak age checks, potential predator exposure, cyberbullying, and location features that can reveal a child's whereabouts.

Signal



Signal is a privacy-focused messaging app with end-to-end encryption, but for kids it can pose risks due to limited parental controls, disappearing messages, and potential for anonymous bullying or grooming.

Telegram



Telegram poses risks for kids, including exposure to adult content, stranger grooming, and disappearing messages that hinder parental monitoring.