

POPULAR TEEN APPS

K n o w t h e R i s k s

RISKS: ADULTS WHO PREY ON CHILDREN



Snapchat

Messaging App

Sexting from strangers occurs frequently. "Vanishing" images, including inappropriate photos of teens, can actually be saved and shared.



Kik Messenger

Texting App

Kik is child exploiters' favorite app because it lets them communicate with kids anonymously. Sexting and sexual content are common.



Tinder

Dating App

Utilizes GPS to find "hook-ups" nearby. Some teens use it, so predators browse for potential victims. Profiles are also rated, which can facilitate bullying.



Instagram

Photo App

90% of Instagram teens' accounts are public, which allows predators to find them. Instagram Direct feature provides private messaging.



Omegle

Chat App

Connects strangers, anonymously, for text or video. Nudity has occurred in the video chats. Adults seeking to exploit children are known to use this app.

RISKS: BULLYING



Ask.fm

Q&A App

Allows secrets to be shared anonymously, and nasty comments lead to bullying. No monitoring of content.



Tumblr

Blog App

Allows group discussions of topics such as eating disorders. Bullying is common.



Yik Yak

Anonymous Posting App

Shares posts with members within 1.5 miles. Sexually explicit language and bullying occur regularly.



Whisper

Confessions App

Whisper encourages bullying after anonymous sharing of secrets. Adult language and sexual images are common.

RISKS: DECEPTION



Audio Manager

Hiding App

Deceptive icon provides cover for user to shelter apps, messages and media, while pretending to be a music app.



HiCalculator

Hiding App

Same as Audio Manager, but pretends to be a calculator.



Vaulty

Hiding App

Hides information from parents. Takes a photo of anyone trying to access the "vault" with wrong password.

What They're Saying About...

Snapchat "... is designed so that all photos and videos will disappear after a predetermined amount of time set by the sender. However, users have negotiated ways to keep photos after their intended time set." (*Netsmartz411*)

Kik Messenger "Within hours of installing this app on his phone, my child was receiving random explicit invitations for photo sharing. Predators pose as teens and try to seduce kids into sharing nude 'selfies'... There are plenty of other ways for a kid to text another kid -- keep them away from Kik!" (*Parent Reviewer, Common Sense Media*)

Tinder "Tinder's importance in the modern dating scene may be debatable, but the fact that it's inappropriate for teens is not." (*Staff Reviewer, Common Sense Media*)

Instagram "If you allow your child to download this app ... please make sure to switch to private settings and disable geotags. Public settings are the default. I have seen kids posting info. such as names, ages, schools, etc... things that clearly we as parents do not want the world to know. My daughter received several follow requests from strangers with inappropriate profile photos and sexual come-ons in their bios. I'm not at all comfortable with how easy Instagram makes it for random strangers to reach our kids." (*Parent Reviewers, Common Sense Media*)

Omegle "... it's filled to the brim with inappropriate content, including graphic conversations about hardcore sex, violence, drugs, piracy, and more. It's an app children should be kept far away from." (*Staff Reviewer, Common Sense Media*)

ask.fm "...doesn't monitor content, which opens the door for content that's inappropriate -- and that's very, very easy to find on the site. There are also concerns about bullying. This is not an app kids should be allowed near." (*Staff Reviewer, Common Sense Media*)

Tumblr "... is a microblogging site that showcases a range of user-generated content including product ads, sexy images and ideas, depictions of drug use, and plenty of offensive language... the option to chat with other users opens up possibilities for teens to have contact with anonymous adults." (*Staff Reviewer, Common Sense Media*)

Yik Yak "...clearly not for kids. *Yik Yak's* just yucky. It's a gossipy, lewd, crass online environment in which anything goes and users say anything about anybody." (*Staff Reviewer, Common Sense Media*)

"Teens using this site can be easily cyberbullied without knowing who the harasser is."
(*Netsmartz411*)

Whisper "... is a social 'confessional' app that allows users to post whatever's on their mind, which is then paired with an image. The app also encourages private communications in which users can exchange images and personal information. Although WHISPER is a phenomenally popular app, it's not one for kids." (*Staff Reviewer, Common Sense Media*)



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