

Apps your children may have on their phone and what do they do...

Some of these apps are free and some at a cost....new apps are constantly being developed and advertised and shared with children.



Ask.fm A global social networking site where users create profiles and can send each other questions, with the option of doing so anonymously.



Burnbook Inspired by the 2004 movie "Mean Girls," was created as a social media app where high school and college students could leave anonymous posts, without having to create accounts or user names.



Calculator At first glance, the icon looks like a run-of-the-mill calculator, but when you open it and type in the correct passcode, it will open a treasure trove of hidden pictures and files that don't appear anywhere else on your device.



Cyber Dust Allow users to send messages that disappear on both the sender and recipient's phones after a certain period of time.



Down This app, which used to be called "Bang with Friends," connects using Facebook. Down users pick Facebook friends to whom they think are "hot" and if the friend is attracted to them the app lets them know they are both "down to bang."



Facebook Free social networking website that allows registered users to create profiles, upload photos and videos, send messages and keep in touch with friends, family and colleagues.



Facefeed An app that allows you to share photos and short messages with people.



Fess This app lets you post anonymously to your high school. Only students can make anonymous posts.



Hot or Not The purpose of the app 'Hot or Not' is to rate pictures of other people. When you rate somebody as hot, and they rate you as hot, then you become connections. When you're connected, you get to chat with each other. Users also receive a hotness rating out of 10 based on the number of people who rate you as hot, vs. those who don't.



Houseparty is a video chatting app that's pretty open. Friends can communicate with each other through live video and texts in chat groups. There's no screening and the video is live, so there's nothing to keep kids from inappropriate content. Users can send links via chat and even take screenshots. There's also nothing keeping friends of friends joining groups where they may only know one person.



Instagram Online mobile photo-sharing, video-sharing and social networking service that enables its users to take pictures and videos, and share them on a variety of social networking platforms.



Jailbreak Programs and Icon-Hiding Apps "Jailbreaking" an iPhone or "rooting" an Android phone basically means hacking your own device to lift restrictions on allowable applications — meaning, the user can then download third-party apps not sold in the App Store or Google Play store (read: sometimes sketchy apps). Cydia is a popular application for jailbroken phones, and it's a gateway to other apps called Poof and SBSettings — which are icon-hiding apps. These apps are supposedly intended to help users clear the clutter from their screens, but some young people are using them to hide questionable apps and violent games from their parents. **Be aware of what the Cydia app icons look like so you know if you're getting a complete picture of your teen's app use.**



Kik An instant messaging application for mobile devices. Kik also allows users to share photos, sketches, mobile webpages, and other content. Kik Messenger requires users to register a username.



Look is a free video messaging app. Users can send video (of course), text, emojis and gifs. They can also draw on and use filters on their videos. With Look, strangers can message kids pretty easily, and because there are no content filters, kids can come across inappropriate content. Users have reported cyberbullying activity and have found it difficult to delete their accounts.



MeerKat and YouNow (18+) Allows individuals to live stream right from phones and record themselves.



Meet Me A free app to meet new people and chat!



Omegle Encourages people (kids) to talk to strangers. Kids are able to connect Omegle to their Facebook account to find chat partners with similar interests. When an individual selects this feature, an Omegle Facebook App will receive their Facebook "likes" and match them with a stranger with similar likes.



Periscope Allows kids to live stream right from their phone. When you hit the record button, anyone that uses this app can watch the person live.



Secret Allows people to share messages anonymously within their circle of friends, friends of friends, and publicly.



Snapchat A photo messaging application where users can take photos, record videos, add text and drawings, and send them to a controlled list of recipients. These sent photographs and videos are known as "Snaps." Users set a time limit for how long recipients can view their Snaps (as of April 2014, the range is from 1 to 10 seconds), after which they will be hidden from the recipient's device and deleted from Snapchat's servers.

StreetChat (Formerly called Gaggle) a free, live, anonymous, photo-messaging board for schools and colleges. Individuals can post whatever they want and anyone within a two mile radius can see it. Known for gossip and bullying behaviors.



Swipe Allow users to send messages that disappear on both the sender and recipient's phones after a certain period of time.



Tagged Mature (17 and up), Meet new friends, flirt and play dating games.



Tango Makes free voice and video calls. You can send free text messages and share photos, videos, and status updates. Swipe profile cards or join a trending conversation to make new friends.



Tinder's developers describe the app as "the fun way to connect with new and interesting people around you." But it's mainly used as a dating tool or an anonymous hook-up (read: one-night stand) locator by 20-somethings, college students, and even younger teens and tweens. (Yikes!) The app is rated ages 17+ but Tinder's privacy policy allows teens as young as 13 to register (the app connects with Facebook — which is also technically for ages 13+ — to pull in photos for users' Tinder profiles). Tinder helps people find others in their geographic location and allows users to view each others' photos and start instant messaging once both people have "liked" one another. The geo-location features and anonymous nature of the app put kids at risk for catfishing, sexual harassment, stalking, and worse.



Tumblr A microblogging platform and social networking website that allows users to post multimedia and other content to a short-form blog. Users can follow other users' blogs, as well as make their blogs private.



Twitter An online social networking service that enables users to send and read short 140-character messages called "tweets." Registered users can read and post tweets, but unregistered users can only read them.



uMentioned Where students can post gossip about their school (spread rumors too). Mature material, profanity and drug use references are mentioned.



VaporChat Allow users to send messages that disappear on both the sender and recipient's phones after a certain period of time.



Vine A short-form video sharing service. The service lets users record and edit five to six-second-long looping video clips and rewine, or share others' posts with followers. Some Vines are revined automatically and are shared on other social media platforms.



Viber is a free cross-platform instant messaging app used on smartphones. Send texts, pictures, voice messages, contacts, locations, links, stickers, emotions and more to your friends and family. Create groups and "like" each other's texts and follow Public Chats, forward and share information on social platform.



Voxer A walkie talkie app that allows users to share short messages that make the experience similar to chatting back and forth on a walkie-talkie. Images and texts can also be shared. Users can chat one on one or in groups. The app shares the users current location by default which can put kids at risk.



VSCO is a photo creation app that gives users the tools to shoot, edit and post images to a profile, kind of like Instagram. However, you should know that you have to manually turn on privacy settings and limit location sharing. There are also in-app purchases for more serious photo editing tools that could cost you some serious money if your kid decides to download them.



WhatsApp An instant messaging app for smartphones that operates under a subscription business model. The proprietary, cross-platform app uses the Internet to send text messages, images, video, user location and audio media messages.



Whisper Free app which allows users to send messages anonymously, and to receive replies. Users post messages which are displayed as text superimposed over an image, similar to greeting cards.



Wishbone is a survey app asking teens to choose between two various things. Teens use this app to compare each other and rate them on a scale.



Yik Yak Anonymous social media app. It allows people anonymously to create and view "Yaks" within a 10 mile radius. It is intended for sharing primarily with those in close proximity to the user, potentially making it more intimate and relevant for people reading the posts. All users have the ability to contribute to the stream by writing, responding, and liking or disliking yaks.



YouTube A video-sharing website that allows users to upload, view, and share videos, and it makes use of Adobe Flash Video and HTML5 technology to display a wide variety of user-generated video.



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