
















## Parent App Starter Information

To keep up on age-appropriate media of all types, sign up at [commonsensemedia.org](http://commonsensemedia.org)

app	more info	formal description	student description
SnapChat 	<a href="#">link</a>	<i>SnapChat</i> is an app used to share photos, videos, text, and drawings. Users can send these items 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 December 2013, 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.	“It was made to send nudes but no one does that...really.” “If the person takes a screenshot of your pic it tells you.”
ask.fm 	<a href="#">link</a>	<i>Ask.fm</i> is an app where users ask questions and answer questions posted by other users. The site does not monitor content. Users can, however, report questions or answers that are violent, pornographic, or contain hate speech.	“Used to bully people.” “You can post comments and questions anonymously.”
Hot or Not 	<a href="#">link</a>	<i>Hot or Not</i> is an app where users post pictures of themselves and then receive a score, thus proving the user hot or not. Users may also rate pictures of other people. When users rate each other as hot, they become connections. Upon becoming connected, users may chat with one another.	“People say if you are cute or not.” “Who are random people to decide if you are hot or not?”
omegle 	<a href="#">link</a>	<i>OmeGLE</i> is an anonymous chat client with which users discuss anything they would like. The app allows users to communicate with strangers without registering. The service randomly pairs users in one-on-one chat sessions. Many users ask for personal data upfront, including location, age, and gender, something children might supply (not realizing they do not have to).	“You can randomly chat with strangers but sometimes you see ‘junk.’” “Talking to strangers is fun!”

app	more info	formal description	student description
Facebook 	<a href="#">link</a>	<p><i>Facebook</i> is an online social networking service. Users must register before using the site, after which they may create a personal profile, add other users as friends, exchange messages, and receive automatic notifications when they update their profile.</p>	<p>"No one uses that."            "I hate Facebook. It's just so boring."</p>
Twitter 	<a href="#">link</a>	<p><i>Twitter</i> is a "microblogging" and social networking site. Users post brief, 140-character messages -- called "tweets" -- and follow their friends' activities through the web, IM, or cell phones. Users can choose to post their location along with each Tweet, but must opt in to utilize this feature.</p>	<p>"You post short status, pics, etc like what we used to put on FB."            "You can talk to friends, online friends, or not talk to any specific person. Just 'Tweet.'"</p>
Vine 	<a href="#">link</a>	<p><i>Vine</i> is a social media app that lets users post and watch looping six-second video clips. The app is listed for 17+, and users must confirm that they are 17 or older before installing (this is as simple as tapping "OK" -- there is no verification). Google Play labels it "medium maturity."</p>	<p>"6 second videos that loop - hilarious!!!"            "If you look for humor you find it, but if you look for stuff like porn you will find it."</p>
Instagram 	<a href="#">link</a>	<p><i>Instagram</i> is a popular platform for instantly enhancing photos and videos with cool effects and sharing them across a number of social media platforms. Photos shared in <i>Instagram</i> are public and may have location information unless privacy settings are adjusted.</p>	<p>"There is a fair amount of bad words but it keeps me in touch with many of my friends that I don't get to see often."            "You'll only find bad things if you look for it."</p>
Kik Messenger 	<a href="#">link</a>	<p><i>Kik Messenger</i> is an app-based alternative to standard texting as well as a social networking app. <i>Kik</i> should be used by teens who can discern the difference between texting people individually, with groups, and within a social networking environment.</p>	<p>"It's completely safe as long as you don't talk to random people." "You can block people, but some people from my school send really nasty messages." "People will share nudes of themselves with other people."</p>

app	more info	formal description	student description
<p>Yik Yak</p> 	<p><a href="#">link</a></p>	<p><i>Yik Yak</i> is a free, local social-networking app that lets users post “anything and everything” anonymously. <i>Yik Yak</i> works via GPS to identify where the user is each time he or she opens the app and posts messages (called “yaks”) to other nearby users.</p>	<p>“People at my school are using it to harass others to make them look bad.”  “ If you can’t handle it then you’re not ready for life and you need to delete the app.”</p>
<p>Burn Note</p> 	<p><a href="#">link</a></p>	<p>A Burn Note is an online message with a timer that can only be viewed once by the recipient. The timer starts when the recipient opens the note and automatically destroys the Burn Note once they are done reading it. Once a Burn Note has been deleted it can NEVER be viewed again. It is gone, forever.</p>	<p>“I tried to screen shot it and can't.”  “ I can't pass notes in class with txts anymore cause my mom found them on my phone lol. Now I use Burn Note.”</p>
<p>Secret - Speak Freely</p> 	<p><a href="#">link</a></p>	<p><i>Secret - Speak Freely</i> is a social-media app designed to let people voice whatever is on their mind without anyone being able to know who said it. People voice all sorts of thoughts, some showing longing for a significant other, some admitting their sexual orientation, and some lauding sex, alcohol, drugs, or violence.</p>	<p>“I only have a couple friends who use the app so it’s not hard to tell who is who.”  “Even though it’s anonymous I can see what goes on through the heads of people I know without judgment.”</p>
<p>Whisper</p> 	<p><a href="#">link</a></p>	<p><i>Whisper</i> is a social “confessional” app that allows users to post whatever is on their mind, which is then paired with an image. There is copious strong language and sexual images (though no actual sex is shown).</p>	<p>“This app is a great way to meet people with common secrets, pet peeves, stressors or what not and this app is also wonderful at letting you just get out the good, bad, ugly, nasty or weird stuff you’re holding on to.”</p>