

Facts for Families

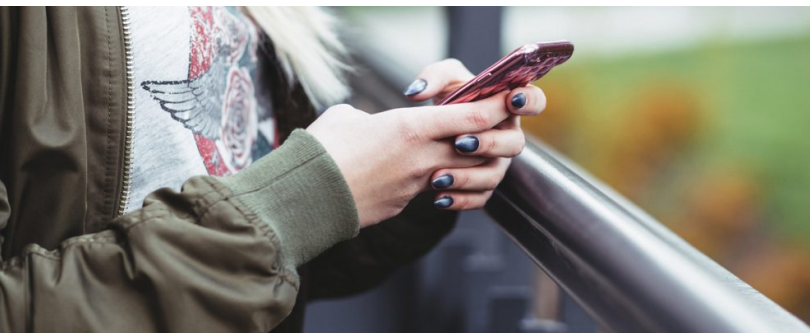
The Children's Home

Top Apps for Teens

There are literally millions of computer and phone apps in cyberspace. It can be challenging for parents to keep up with what's out there and what their teens are exposed to. The Children's Home took a look at the top apps teens are using in 2020.

Lipsi. Lipsi asks users to link the app to their Instagram account so they can send and receive anonymous feedback about their posts. The key feature of this app is the ability to easily erase message histories, which some research says can prompt risky behavior.

Tellonym. This is an anonymous texting app with over 10-million users. Some schools have warned parents about bullying connected with this app.



Kik. Used by 1/3 of Americans ages 13-17. News reports have surfaced about Kik being involved in cases of online predators.

BitLife. Text based life-simulation game where users are asked to make adult choices such as sexual activity or whether to use illegal drugs.



Houseparty. This is a group video chat service and is the fourth most downloaded app on the market. Chats are not monitored and a location feature allows users nearby to be added.

Holla. Allows live video chats with strangers; several reviews state users expose themselves or engage in explicit behavior during chats.

Telegram. Allows for users to send texts, imagery, & videos. The app encourages secret messages and users have access to adult themed stickers and plug-ins.

APP Quiz

Can you name these Apps?



1. BUMBLE is similar to the popular dating app “Tinder;” however, it requires women to initiate contact. There have been cases reported by law enforcement that say minors have used BUMBLE to create fake accounts to falsify their age.
2. SNAPCHAT is one of the most downloaded apps of all time. It says videos and images will disappear; however, this is not always the case and users can see one another’s location.
3. KIK allows anyone to message and bypasses traditional messaging features and protections. It gives users unlimited access to anyone, anywhere, 24-hours a day.
4. LIVE ME is a live-stream video app that users can use to pinpoint a broadcaster's location. Cases have been reported of users earning virtual “coins” to “pay” minors for photos.
5. HOLLA is a video chat app that connects a worldwide audience instantly. There have been several cases of users being subjected to racial slurs and explicit content.
6. WHISPER is an anonymous social app that promotes sharing secrets with strangers and reveals user locations so people can meet.
7. ASK.FM has been linked to cyberbullying. The app encourages users to allow anonymous people to ask them questions.
8. CALCULATOR% is one of several apps like it designed to hide photos, videos, files, and browser history.
9. HOT OR NOT encourages users to rate each other’s profiles, view people in their geographic location and converse with strangers. This is commonly used as a dating app.