Popular App Guide for Parents & Educators
from Safe, Smart & Social

https://safesmartsocial.com/

The **Safe, Smart & Social** site has a video for each of the apps listed above so parents and educators can learn more about the app, and determine if a particular app is appropriate.

Apps considered safe for teens:

These apps are relatively safe for kids and students, and they can be used to help a kid shine online to impress colleges and future employers. When used wisely, these apps will help your students adjust their Google results to create a portfolio of online accomplishments. If your kids want to have a profile on these networks/apps, please consider having a dialog with them.

Facebook
Age: 13+
Facebook aims to give people the power to share and make the world more open and connected. Kids tend to share personal information on their Facebook profile. This information is often visible for college admissions officers, and future employers when they search for them.

Facebook Messenger
Age: 13+
Facebook messenger (owned by Facebook) allows you to chat with anyone on Facebook. To initiate a conversation with users you need to add them to your Facebook friend list. We suggest parents to add their students on Facebook and monitor who they are adding as friends.

Instagram
Age: 13+
Instagram is a free photo sharing application that allows users to take photos, apply a filter, and share it on the service or other social networking services. This app is great for showcasing one's accomplishments and adventures. However, kids need to be careful with what pictures they do post.

LinkedIn

Age: 14+

LinkedIn is the world's largest professional network. It is an important tool for teens that want to improve their Google results when applying to college. It is the best place to start an online image to impress colleges and future employers.

Pintrest

Age: 13+

Pinterest is a visual discovery tool that helps users find and save ideas. It's a great source of inspiration for students. They can use Pinterest to find studying tips, DIY's and more. Kids can have fun on Pinterest, as soon as they pin pictures that are Light, Bright and Polite.

Twitter

Age: 13+

Twitter is an online social network, which allows you to send messages up to 140 characters in length. This is a great app for students to share their thoughts and feelings. However, kids must also be aware that anyone can view what is posted if their account is public.

YouTube:

Age: 13+

YouTube is a free platform for watching and uploading videos, and is owned by Google. Positive videos can turn a student's Google results into a three dimensional version of their college resume. YouTube also has a multitude of educational videos you can learn from.

These apps can be good and bad for your teens:

It is recommended you have a dialog with your kids about sexting and inappropriate content if your kids have these apps. Although some people are scared of Snapchat and Vine, there are apps that are much worse. Every parent should put time in each month to have a dialog with their kids about the apps they are using. This is the best way to keep kids safe – not by restricting them but by talking with them.

Minecraft
Age: 7+
Minecraft is the best selling PC game of all time. While Minecraft may be used for educational purposes, players can encounter bullying, inappropriate content and even viruses when playing this game.
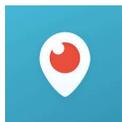
Musical.ly
Age: 13+
Musical.ly is a popular app that let's users create lip-syncing videos to their favorite songs. While this app may be fun for teens it may be scary for tweens due to the adult content that can be found on this app.

Pokemon Go
Age: 9+
Pokémon Go is an augmented-reality mobile game for iOS and Android devices. While quickly becoming one of the most popular apps of all time, it has raised some safety concerns. Learn how your kids can have fun and still stay safe if they play Pokémon Go.

Periscope
Age: 13+
Periscope is a location based app. It allows users to watch and broadcast real time videos. It's easy to find your kids on Periscope if you know their Twitter usernames. Some teens get in trouble using the Periscope app.

SMS

Age: No age limits

SMS text messaging is one of the primary apps that each phone has. All accounts are connected to phone numbers. SMS messenger is relatively safe for students – trackable and least difficult for parents to monitor.

Snapchat

Age: 13+

Snapchat is a messaging service that allows people to send photos and short videos to each other that disappear seconds after opening them. A major concern with Snapchat is how teen Snapchat users use the app, since parents are not on it and content disappears.

WhatsApp

Age: 16+

WhatsApp is a mobile messenger that is similar to short message services. Users can share location and contacts with other users. WhatsApp helps kids bypass text messaging and communicate with their friends using the app.

Apps *not* for teens.

These apps usually have inappropriate and unmoderated content. They also tend to be used for cyberbullying.

AfterSchool App

Age: 17+

AfterSchool App is an anonymous app that creates a separate chat group for every school. It has been removed twice from the AppStore because of threats and arrests. Messages often include bullying, pornography, and alcohol or drug references.

Ask.fm

Age: 13+

Ask.fm is a social networking website where people can ask questions, with the option of anonymity. Kids often reveal too much personal information on this site, and cyberbullying is very prevalent.

BurnBook

Age: 18+

BurnBook is an anonymous app for posting text, photos and audio rumor messages about others. The app compiles messages by school, so the app requires access to your location. It encourages students to screenshot the rumors and save them to their phone, which causes bullying issues.

Calculator% Private Photo

Age: 4+

The "Private Photo (Calculator%)" app is designed to help students hide photos and videos behind an innocent looking calculator app. This application looks like a calculator but entering a passcode opens private photo storage.

Finstagram

Age: 13+

Finstagram (Finsta) is a fake (or second) Instagram account. Students get a second Instagram account along with their real Instagrams (Rinstagrams), to post silly pictures or videos.

Kik Messenger

Age: 17+

Kik allows anyone on the app to contact your child and directly message them. It has been known to allow adults to communicate with preteens, and is very difficult to discern who is a predator and who is real. Some adults have been known to use this app to pretend like they are tweens and teens. Kik allows students to bypass text messaging features of their phone. Users can connect with anyone on the network and aren't limited to their phone's contact list.

Omegle

Age: 18+

Omegle is an anonymous text and video chat room that connects strangers to talk with each other. The app allows you to share personal information, and also contains inappropriate and unmoderated content.

ooVoo

Age: 13+

ooVoo is one the world's largest video and messaging apps. Parents should be aware that ooVoo is used by predators to contact underage kids. The app can allow users to video chat with up to twelve people at one time.

Slingshot

Ages: 13+

Slingshot is a comparison app, marketed to boys, that allows users to vote or create polls. Slingshot users can create any type of poll, including polls that are not appropriate for teens. This app is popular with students, and the comment section is used to bully other students.

StreetChat

Age: 14+

StreetChat is a live photo-sharing board designed for middle school, high school and college students. Kids feel more freedom to send mean posts because they do not have to confirm their identity within the app. This leads to students often posting about real people.

WhatsGoodly

Age: 17+

WhatsGoodly is an anonymous, location-based, social polling application designed for college students. It has a 17+ age restriction, but younger students can still see polls and vote. There are a lot of questions about dating, relationships, alcohol, and smoking on the app.

Whisper

Age: 17+

Whisper is an anonymous social network that allows people to express themselves. Whisper reveals a user's location, which makes it easy for people to arrange to meet up. This also makes it easier for predators to locate and connect with users.

Yik Yak

Age: 18+

Yik Yak acts like a local bulletin board for your area by showing the most recent posts from other users around you. The app is popular with high school students, and it is often used to harm the self-esteem of fellow students.

YouNow

Age: 13+

YouNow is a popular broadcasting platform where kids watch and stream real-time videos. Users decide whether broadcasters should continue their live videos with thumbs up and thumbs down voting. Anyone can record the videos posted, take screenshots and bully others with the recordings.

Tinder

Age: 13+

Tinder is a photo and messaging and messaging dating app for browsing pics of potential matches within a certain mile radius of the user's location. Swipe right to "like" and left to "pass". If you "like" someone's photo and the "like" you back, you can then message each other. Users can also post "moments", which are images and messages, that last for 24 hours then disappear. Listed for users 13 and above, but has a widespread reputation as the "hook-up" app; the use of location and lack of privacy is also problematic.