



Teens like these social networking APPs... here is everything you need to know about them.

App	Age guide	What it's about...	Pros	Cons	Be in Touch says...
ASKfm 	App store: 13 <i>Common Sense Media:</i> 13+	A Q&A-based website and app that enables users to ask and answer controversial questions anonymously. It is highly integrated with sites like Facebook, Tumblr and Twitter.	It gives kids another reason to talk about themselves, other than in the comment section of their own selfies – not sure if this is a pro?!	The opportunity for bullying is a concern, and it has been linked to a number of suicides.	Although it may not be as huge as Instagram or Snapchat, it's one to watch.  Any site that allows anonymous posts should ring alarms.
Down 	Sign in via Facebook (13) <i>Common Sense Media:</i> 18+	Users pick Facebook friends whom they think are “sexy”, and if the friend is also attracted to them, the app lets them know they are both “down to bang” – either to meet up for a date or to have sex.	It tries to promote sexuality as a healthy, natural, and crucial aspect to relationships.	This platform provides a secret way to hook up with and “get dates or get down” with people nearby. Your DOWN Score (attractiveness rating) is calculated by the number of views you get and the 'Get Down/Get Date' swipes/clicks.	Not suitable for kids!  Any site that allows anonymous posts, or promotes secrecy, should ring alarms! These are notorious hubs for sexual predators.



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Facebook 	App store: 13 <i>Common Sense Media:</i> 15+	One of the most popular, original social networking sites to post pictures, text, or videos, that is currently seeing a revival.	<p>On the Safety page, parents can access directions about setting up a secure account, read about how to prevent online bullying, and get parenting tips around helping kids use social media responsibly.</p> <p>There's also a Youth Portal that's meant to help teens understand how to use the site, control their information, and protect their privacy and safety.</p>	Teens can easily access dodgy FB sites. They can also watch live-stream video with Facebook Live, connect with goods and services on offer, and live-chat via Messenger.	<p>Guidance needs to be given to kids on the consequences of creating a permanent and public digital profile through what they post and what they comment on or like. </p> <p>Public profiles for teens are a no-go!</p>
Flickr 	App Store: 13 <i>Common Sense Media:</i> 15+	A popular place for teens to store, manage, and share digital photos and videos online.	Users can upload photos or videos from different sources in a private group, to enable easy sharing – makes sharing party pics easy!	The main downside is that it's easy to access other user's posts, enabling kids to find things you may not want them to see.	<p>Parents need to make sure the privacy settings are set – public profiles for teens are a no-go! </p> <p>The geo-location feature should be turned off to mitigate online sexual predator risk.</p>



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<p>Houseparty</p> 	<p>App store: 13</p> <p><i>Common Sense Media:</i> 14+</p>	<p>A social networking service that enables group video chatting through mobile and desktop apps. Users receive a notification when friends are online and available to group video chat. The app is intended for teens who are keen on social media but are not old enough.</p>	<p>Similar to FaceTime, but you can chat to multiple people at the same time.</p> <p>Encourages face-to-face interaction with friends!</p>	<p>Can also be used to send messages, so parents need to be aware of this!</p> <p>You need to be invited to the group to chat, creating the danger of exclusion, generating self-doubt, a lot of anxiety and fear of missing out in those excluded. The ones who are not invited to the “party” know or fear that they’re not included because the group is talking about them.</p> <p>Because anyone in the group can add anyone else, your child may be speaking to someone they don’t know, via a friend.</p>	<p>As the feed is live, the potential for misuse, inadvertent and unexpected exposure to inappropriate content is high. </p> <p>This App has been linked to sexual predators due to the ease with which strangers can make contact.</p>
<p>Instagram</p> 	<p>App store: 13</p> <p><i>Common Sense Media:</i> 15+</p>	<p>A well organised platform to share (filtered) photos and videos with followers, where users try to gain followers and get content “liked.”</p> <p>On a service referred to as IGTV, users can</p>	<p>Settings allow users to send private messages or make accounts private. The green status dot showing whether you are active on the App can also be turned off.</p> <p>Users can remove</p>	<p>Teens who are most susceptible to a need for validation or fame, may feel pressure to present themselves in a way that is not reflective of their true lives or characters.</p> <p>Tinder users can access other Tinder users' Instagram feeds directly (even on private Instagram feeds), if Tinder</p>	<p>A healthy sense of self-worth is required  to use this App – keep reminding your kids that nobody posts the bad times!</p> <p>Guidance needs to be given to kids on the consequences of creating a permanent and public digital profile through what they post and what they comment on or like.</p>



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		subscribe to other people's video collections called "channels" (like YouTube).	<p>followers, turn off comments and mute followers.</p> <p>The <i>Your Activity</i> feature shows how much time you've spent using the App, and lets you set time limits for yourself!</p>	<p>integration is enabled.</p> <p>User profile algorithms are strongly integrated, so users are targeted by product marketing, and can make purchases directly from buy links in the app.</p>	<p>Parents need to make sure the privacy settings are set – public profiles for teens are a no-go!</p> <p>The geo-location feature should be turned off to mitigate online sexual predator risk.</p> <p>Parents should also be aware that Instagram is widely used to share pornography and well as to buy and sell drugs.</p>
<p>Kik</p> 	<p>App store: 13</p> <p><i>Common Sense Media:</i> 17+</p>	<p>Popular instant messaging platform to send text, images, and video.</p> <p>Offers a wide range of activities, including surfing the web from within the app, sketching, chatting with strangers, making in-app purchases, and sending virtual greeting cards.</p>	<p>Can be used as an alternative to SMS as unlimited texts are free, besides normal data usage charges.</p> <p>Requires only a username rather than a phone number.</p>	<p>Strangers can easily start conversations with kids and this App has a reputation for being used in predatory crimes.</p> <p>Users often post their Kik usernames on other social media (like Instagram), which may give strangers access to a teen's profile.</p>	<p>Not suitable for kids!</p> <p>Not talking to strangers is one of the first things we teach our kids. </p> <p>Kids may be exposed to highly sexualized, inappropriate content that includes graphic images.</p> <p>This App has been linked to sexual predators due to the ease with which strangers can make contact.</p>



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Meetme 	App store: 13 <i>Common Sense Media:</i> 18+	A flirting, dating, entertainment, and social networking app, where all members can see your profile. Has a strong focus on meeting potential dates, who are also complete strangers.	Users can chat, e-mail and video chat to each other through the site.	Besides huge safety and privacy concerns, user profile pictures promote nudity, downing alcohol, smoking and taking drugs. A "blind date" game measures your compatibility with other players and gives you an option to e-mail them at the end.	Not suitable for kids!  Not talking to strangers is one of the first things we teach our kids. Kids may be exposed to highly sexualized, inappropriate content that includes graphic images. It is notoriously linked to sexual predators due to the ease with which strangers can make contact.
Omegle 	App store: 13 <i>Common Sense Media:</i> 18+	An app and website that invites users to "talk to strangers!" Kids are able to connect this App to their Facebook account.	Users can chat to each other through the site.	The app or website picks partners at random, or connects them based on interest, and enables one-on-one chats in a private chat room, that start off anonymously but enable more and more information to be shared.	Not suitable for kids!  Not talking to strangers is one of the first things we teach our kids. Kids may be exposed to highly sexualized, inappropriate content that includes graphic images. This App is a haven for sexual predators.



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ooVoo 	App store: 13 <i>Common Sense Media:</i> 16+	An app and website that enables video chatting with up to 12 friends (or strangers!), send video messages, record and upload videos to YouTube, and use the instant messaging feature.	Enables group video chats, even if users are using different platforms. Also enables texts and calls. Users can block other users and report them for harassing behavior.	Safety and privacy concerns include the fact that kids can be contacted by strangers.	Pay attention to whom your kids are chatting with!  Parents need to make sure the privacy settings are set to limit or restrict public access, otherwise anyone can search for, see, and contact them.
Periscope 	App store: 13 <i>Common Sense Media:</i> 17+	A video-streaming app that enables users to live-stream right from their phone via Twitter.	Allows viewers to send "hearts" to the broadcaster by tapping on the mobile screen as a form of appreciation.	When a user hits record, anyone that uses this app can potentially watch them live. There is a private broadcast setting, which should be used.	Not suitable for kids!  As the feed is live, the potential for misuse, inadvertent and unexpected exposure to inappropriate content is high.
Snapchat 	App store: 13 <i>Common Sense Media:</i>	A popular photo and video messaging platform with a "self-destructing" feature where content is deleted after being viewed.	Easy to use, with fun features like photo doodling, captions, and filters. A "Do Not Disturb" feature allows users to	It has a notorious reputation as a "sexting" app. The disappearing content is a big part of what makes the App so appealing. However, it doesn't completely "disappear," but can	 This app is designed to HIDE information – parents need to ask themselves why their teen would need it, and how they would be able to monitor it?



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	16+		mute threads without outright blocking anyone.	live on in screenshots and data recovery. The "Snapstreaks" feature, whereby users are encouraged to keep trading snaps within a time period, increases the addictive factor of this App.	Teens who believe that snaps disappear are more likely to engage in risky or inappropriate behavior. The geo-location feature should be turned off to avoid being pinned on a "Snap Map".
Tango 	App store: 13 <i>Common Sense Media:</i> 16+	An interactive video platform for live content, messaging, music, videos and games. This app offers free video and phone calls, messaging and group chats for up to 50 people.	Video calls are limited to one-to-one, but chats can include up to 300 people at once.	To add friends, users can search phone contacts, and potentially make contact with strangers anywhere in the world. Monetisation of live video feeds is incentivised, adding to the addiction factor.	As always, parents need to be aware of who their child is chatting with!  As the feed is live, the potential for misuse, inadvertent and unexpected exposure to inappropriate content is high. There is a private broadcast setting, which should be used.
Telegram 	App store: 13 <i>Common Sense Media:</i> 17+	An App that does a lot more than a typical texting app, and is completely free with no advertisements.	Up to 5,000 friends can be addressed in one single group message. Unique to most messaging apps, all the texts and phone calls are encrypted, and any	Users can delete texts and set up secret chats that dissolve messages on a timer. Users can also create their own custom "stickers" that can be shared and posted freely, and they often happen to contain	Pay attention to whom your kids are chatting with!  Parents need to make sure the privacy settings are set and the geo-location feature turned off.



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			file type can be sent up to 1.5 GB in size.	porn.	
<p>Tik Tok (merged with musical.ly)</p>  <p>Tik Tok</p>	<p>App store: 13 (with approval from parent if under 18)</p> <p><i>Common Sense Media:</i> 16+</p>	<p>A controversial App where users can watch and record videos of themselves lip-synching, singing or dancing to popular music and sound bites</p> <p>Like YouTube, this App is an interactive world of videos that lets you connect with friends and admirers through likes, comments, and even duets.</p>	<p>Allows users to set their accounts as "private".</p> <p>Users can choose whether any other user, or only their "friends", may interact with them through the app via comments, messages, or "react" or "duet" videos.</p>	<p>Because it allows users to communicate by video with people about whom they know nothing, privacy concerns and the potential for exposure to sexual predators are big.</p> <p>This App has been associated with endemic cyberbullying, including racist and anti-Semitic abuse.</p>	 <p>Pay attention to whom your kids are chatting with! Not talking to strangers is one of the first things we teach our kids.</p> <p>Parents need to make sure the privacy settings are set and the geo-location feature turned off.</p> <p>Other than Restricted Mode, there's no way to filter out content on TikTok, so parents are encouraged to share an account with kids.</p>
<p>Tumblr</p> 	<p>App store: 13</p> <p><i>Common Sense Media:</i> 15+</p>	<p>One of the web's most popular blogging platforms, enabling text, audio, dialogue, photos and videos.</p> <p>A lot of teens have traded in their</p>	<p>Like Snapchat and Instagram, Tumblr is largely dominated by visual content and has become a favourite platform for animated GIF sharing.</p> <p>There is a "Safe Mode"</p>	<p>The App enables a wide range of user-generated content including product ads, porn, images of drug and alcohol use, political rants and offensive language.</p> <p>It has developed a notorious reputation as a porn sharing App, especially late at night, with users</p>	 <p>Posts are public by default and there's only one privacy setting, only available on the website, not the app - users can turn off the option to let others find their blog through an email address.</p>



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		Facebook accounts for a Tumblr blog instead.	setting that can be used to filter content.	finding it difficult to block creepy trolls from their blogs.	
Twitter 	App store: 13 <i>Common Sense Media:</i> 15+	A microblogging social network, which is a hub for real-time news and connecting with high-profile individuals and celebrities.	Simple to use and access from a mobile device. The visual component of embedded multimedia, such as photos, articles, and videos, in tweets attracts users.	Though users can delete tweets, if other users have reposted them with a comment of their own, those tweets will remain. Parents need to be aware that group private chat can be set up, not visible to outside users. The App enables spamming of content, much of which is offensive and inappropriate. It is also increasingly being used as a promotional tool for marketing of products and celebrities.	 Guidance needs to be given to kids on the consequences of creating a permanent and public digital profile through what they post and what they comment on or like. Pay attention to whom your kids are following and chatting with! Parents need to make sure the privacy settings are set and the geo-location feature turned off.
uMentioned uMentioned	App store: 12 <i>Common Sense Media:</i> 18+	Promoted as a college or university App to get the “juiciest stories, darkest secrets, and funniest moments” on campus.	Enables college or university students to widen their friendship circle.	Enables the sharing of thoughts, questions and confessions anonymously. Allows users to anonymously flirt and make new friends with people nearby, urging users to “never miss a chance to express yourself as its all anonymous until	 Not suitable for kids! Any site that allows anonymous posts should ring alarms! These are notorious hubs for cyberbullying and sexual



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				you are ready to reveal yourself".	predators.
WeChat 	App store: 13 <i>Common Sense Media:</i> 16+	Feature-rich messaging and call platform and one of the world's most widely used social-networking platforms. Offers fun in-app games, stickers, and "Friend Radar" to find nearby users.	Users can connect with friends around the world.	Safety and privacy concerns include the fact that strangers can contact users by adding their WeChat ID, unless the user manually turns off the Friend Radar.	 Pay attention to whom your kids are chatting with! Not talking to strangers is one of the first things we teach our kids. Parents need to make sure the privacy settings are set and the geo-location feature turned off.
WhatsApp 	App store: 16 <i>Common Sense Media:</i> 16+	Widely used platform for text, image, video, and audio messaging, as well as voice and video calls.	Users can connect with friends around the world. Allows unlimited messages and international calling to relatives or friends abroad.	Pushes users to add "friends", and your teen (and their phone number) can easily be added to group chats with friends-of-friends, without consent. Users have the ability to send any content, including disappearing photos, videos, and GIFs through the Status feature. Messages can also be deleted.	 Pay attention to whom your kids are chatting with! Not talking to strangers is one of the first things we teach our kids. Parents need to make sure the privacy settings are set and the geo-location feature turned off.
YouNow	App store: 13 <i>Common</i>	A live video-streaming and chat App, where users register through FaceBook, Twitter or Goggle+.		Users broadcast themselves live and can see and respond to live chat or view other broadcasters and chat with them. The number of viewers is shown, and	 As the feed is live, the potential for misuse, inadvertent and



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	<i>Sense Media:</i> 17+			<p>broadcasters can start trending if they have lots of viewers.</p> <p>Users can buy gold bars to use to send gifts to other broadcasters. Videos are only available live and can't be accessed after a few days, however, all user-generated content is retained and stored by the developers, so the content doesn't actually disappear.</p>	<p>unexpected exposure to inappropriate content is high.</p> <p>This App has been linked to sexual predators due to the ease with which strangers can make contact.</p>
YouTube 	App store: 13 <i>Common Sense Media:</i> 13+	A popular video-sharing site and app.	<p>The app includes a feature that lets you see how much time you've spent watching videos, and you can set reminders to turn off auto-play and take a break.</p> <p>YouTube does offer parents the ability to filter out objectionable content and comments using Safety Mode. However, Safety Mode doesn't catch everything, and it's easy to disable.</p>	<p>Potentially a black hole for mobile data and time!</p> <p>Be aware that virtually anything can be accessed – porn, substance abuse, suicide tutorials... you name it, it is there. Channel owners can also distribute live content, and can launch livestreams at will.</p> <p>Parents should know that the App allows in-app messaging between users.</p> <p>To search your kids' viewing history, you need to search within the App itself, not the internet</p>	<p></p> <p>Plenty of inappropriate content can surface by typing in the most innocent of search terms, so parents need to monitor their kids' use.</p> <p>As live feed is now possible, the potential for misuse, inadvertent and unexpected exposure to inappropriate content is high.</p> <p>If you wouldn't let your kid watch random TV or surf the net without supervision, consider installing <i>YouTube Kids</i>, which</p>



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				search history.	has some built in filters.
Voxer 	App store: 13 <i>Common Sense Media:</i> 13+	A walkie talkie app that allows users to share short little voice notes 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. Parents should know that the App allows in-app messaging between users.	 Pay attention to whom your kids are chatting with! Not talking to strangers is one of the first things we teach our kids. Parents need to make sure the privacy settings are set and the geo-location feature turned off.
Whisper 	App store: 17 <i>Common Sense Media:</i> 18+	An App that lets users share and post their “deepest, darkest secrets” anonymously through pictures and texts – which don’t disappear.	As users don’t have a public identity, they can only be contacted through the messages they post, either publicly or privately.	Safety and privacy concerns include the lack of confidentiality and that users don’t have a public identity in the app, so anonymity is secured. and there is no way to contact them except through the messages they post. Some users use it to try to hook up with someone nearby, while others post “confessions” and “secrets”, which may be highly derogatory, injurious or spurious comments about other people, for which there is no accountability.	 Not suitable for kids! Any site that allows anonymous posts should ring alarms! These are notorious hubs for cyberbullying and sexual predators.



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Yolo 	App store: 13 <i>Common Sense Media</i> 17+	Working in conjunction with Snapchat, it lets users receive and respond to anonymous questions from their Snapchat friends, and keeps a record of both questions and responses.		As a free add-on feature for Snapchat, when users connect YOLO to their accounts, they can add a sticker to their Snapchat Story that invites their followers to give them feedback or ask them questions anonymously. Then, if they choose, the users can respond to those questions in their Stories.	 Not suitable for kids! Pay attention to whom your kids are chatting with! Not talking to strangers is one of the first things we teach our kids. Any site that allows anonymous posts should ring alarms! These are notorious hubs for cyberbullying and sexual predators.
Yubo 	App store: 13 <i>Common Sense Media</i> 17+	An App that lets users create a profile, share their location, and flip through images of other users in their area. You can either scroll through the current livestreams or browse individual profiles by swiping, Tinder-style, on profiles you like.		Basically, a dating app or a hook up site, where teens peruse profiles of other "teens" (or potentially adults posing as kids) who live in their area and swipe left or right if they like what they see, before connecting via Snapchat.	 Not suitable for kids! Pay attention to whom your kids are chatting with! Not talking to strangers is one of the first things we teach our kids. Parents need to make sure the privacy settings are set and the geo-location feature turned off.