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## SOCIAL APPS PARENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT



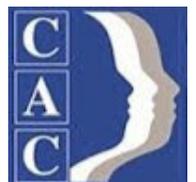
**ASKfm** - This is a Q&A social networking site, and it is estimated that more than 40 percent of its users are under the age of 17. Users ask questions anonymously, and while answers are tied by username and photo, critics say the service is a tool easily used for cyberbullying. A newer feature allows users to ask questions of those who are located close to them geographically.

**Instagram** - Especially popular on mobile devices, some young people have two accounts on this image-heavy app - one open to the public and a “finsta” (fake instagram) account that is more personal and accessed by a tighter circle.

**Kik** - An alternative to SMS texting, this app is very popular with teens and requires only a username instead of a phone number. Young Instagram users sometimes list their Kik usernames in their bios so that other IG users can contact them privately.

**Omegle** - One of a number of “random chat” sites in which users get connected to “socialize” with strangers. Similar sites and apps include Blendr, Chatroulette, Live.me and many more.

**SnapChat** - A private messaging app in which photos and short videos that users share “disappear” after an amount of time determined by the user. However, screenshots ensure that content is never truly gone.





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**TikTok** - This service absorbed the Musical.ly app that was previously very popular with young people. TikTok users share short videos, sometimes with special effects, and often with a creative bent - singing, dancing, performing mini comedy sketches, or completing a viral "challenge."

**Twitter** - This "microblogging" platform launched all the way back in 2006 allows users to share text, photos, videos and links in brief messages. While private Twitter accounts are possible, most are publicly searchable. Users can send private messages ("DMs") to those they follow and vice versa.

**YouTube** - YouTube is now considered the most popular social app among young people in the United States, with 85 percent of teenagers saying in a 2018 Pew Research Center survey that they use YouTube. (Instagram was used by 72 percent, and Snapchat by 69 percent.) Teens are drawn to its famous "vloggers" and influencers who curate their own channels.

**Vault Apps** - There are a variety of these that allow users to hide inappropriate material or minimize suspicion. They often mimic standard tools like calculators, clocks, or music managers. Examples include KeepSafe, Calculator+, Best Secret Folder, and more.

**What's App** - This messaging app is owned by Facebook and lets users not only send texts but post status updates, send video, share your location and make voice and video calls over the Internet.

**Whisper** - An "anonymous" confession app that has a geo-locate feature allowing users to find other users nearby. Similar apps include After School, Anomo, Psst! Anonymous, and more.

