

# Apps

## Apps, Gaming and Dating Apps



**Flinch-** Stare at the other person and the first to smile, laugh or 'flinch' loses the match. However the other person can be a complete stranger, of any age, from any country and can say or do anything. **Concerns-** It can be an easy platform for sexual predators, cyberbullies and criminals to gain access to targets.

**Musical.ly-** you pick a song and are supposed to lip-sync along to it, creating a mini music video. This can then be shared either in the app itself or on Vine, Twitter or Instagram. **Concerns-** Pornographic material, Children are at risk of being exposed to inappropriate content, Children are at risk of being groomed. Users can search for other users to view or follow near their own location.



**Live.ly-** is a new live video streaming platform created by musical.ly. It is live video streaming in a social networking app and allows users to broadcast live videos to online friends. Users can log in with their musical.ly, Facebook or Twitter account. There are concerns around privacy and safety.

**Whisper-** This 17+ app's motto is: "Share Secrets, Express Yourself, Meet New People." that allows users to post whatever is on their minds along with an image, which other users can then "like," share, or comment on. **Concerns-** 'Whispers' are often sexual in nature with some users using the app to hook up with people nearby. Content can be dark with 'Whisper topics' including insecurity and depression. The app also encourages users to exchange information in the 'Meet Up' section, and also shows a user's location.





**GroupMe-** is another app that doesn't charge fees or have limits for direct and group messages. Users can also send photos, videos and calendar links. **Concerns-** This app is for older teens and has emoji's that have some alcohol themes including drinking and 'sexy' images, but younger children are starting to find this app.

**Omegle and Chatroulette**— are websites which lets you talk to another person anywhere in the world. When you go onto the site, Chatroulette connects you to someone at random. You can talk to people via video or text. **Concerns** for children; explicit and inappropriate images and talking to stranger or fake strangers.



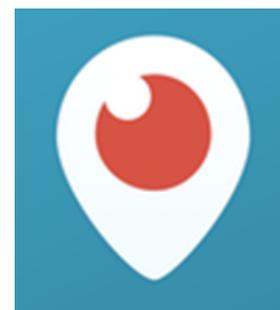
**Yik Yak-** is an online bulletin board. All users are anonymous (registration requires no personal information, other than a user's location), and their posts are called "Yaks" and show up in a live feed for other users — or "Yakkers" — in their area. It uses the GPS settings on your mobile phone or tablet to find your location and shows you the most recent posts from other people around you. As well as posting your own content, you can post and vote on other people's bulletin boards. **Concerns-** The app is rated ages 17+ and targets college students, who can use it to spread the word about parties and events or share their thoughts. But younger users are easily getting their hands on the app and using it to post hurtful comments and rumours about their peers.

**MeetMe-** is a social network that differentiates itself from others because it introduces people to new friends instead of connecting them to existing ones. **Concerns-** Risks around no profile information is verified, predators can easily pose as teens to befriend and lure other teens to meet in person.



**Rando 4Me**— This is an app allowing you to easily exchange photos with strangers all over the world. You take a picture and send it away. As soon as your photo has landed somewhere in the universe, you receive a photo back from a stranger. **Concerns-** Indecent images being sent to young persons.

**Periscope**– This app works in conjunction with Twitter and lets you broadcast and explore the world through live video. **Concerns** around broadcasting live to strangers across the world and strangers who may broadcast teens, live and in real time. There are also concerns around inappropriate challenges being set by children. i.e. 'show your bra when you've reached 20 views'.



**Bip Messenger**– This is an app that allows for instant messaging and voice and video call experience. You can send, instantly and for free all your photos, videos, audios and messages. **Concerns** around inappropriate messaging, videos and location sharing.

**Palringo**- is the world's largest network of mobile gaming communities. The app lets you chat and play games with people from all over the world. You can chat one-on-one, play a range of games directly in your group chat, create your own group or join one of the already user created communities. **Concerns** around predators who may use the app to meet children. The app can also lead to discussing about inappropriate topics.



**Hot or Not**- is a rating site that allows users to rate the attractiveness of photos submitted voluntarily by others. The app also shows you a list of the 'hottest' people nearby. You can also send messages via the app if you get a match. **Concerns** around potential predators and fake profiles being set up by underage children as the app doesn't verify age.

**Tinder**- Tinder's developers describe the app as "the fun way to connect with new and interesting people around you." But it's mainly used as a dating tool or an anonymous hook-up. The app is rated ages 17+ but Tinder's privacy policy allows teens as young as 13 to register. Tinder helps people find others in their geographic location and allows users to view each other's' photos and start instant messaging once both people have "liked" one another. **Concerns**- The geo-location features and anonymous nature of the app put kids at risk for sexual harassment, stalking, and worse.





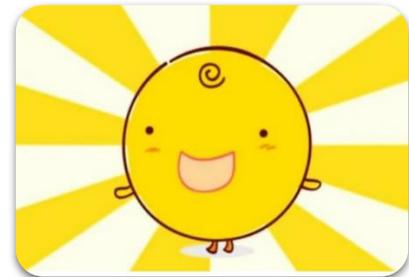
**Blindr-** is a dating / flirting app used to meet new people through GPS location services. You can send messages, photos and videos via the app. **Concerns** around sexual predators, sexting and the fact that there are no age restrictions.

**YouNow-** is an app which lets you watch and create live videos, you can chat, promote or give gifts to other users. **Concerns** in relation to lack of privacy and sexual content, 47% of children survey felt this was a site of risk.



**Dubsmash-** is an app which lets you create your own music videos dubbed with famous sounds and quotes. Once you've finished you can share the video with your friends or with people from around the world. **Concern** around inappropriate language and bullying taking place on this app.

**SimSimi-** is an artificial intelligence chatting robot also known as a chatbot. Chatbots are computer programmes that simulate human conversations on the internet. With the development of artificial intelligence, chatbots are becoming more prominent. **Concerns** due to most of the content on the app contains offensive language and sexual content may cause upset for some users. Local schools have already circulated their concerns regarding this app to parents



**Yellow-** also labelled as 'Tinder for Kids' and 'Teenager Tinder' doesn't bill itself as a dating app but as an app to make new friends on Snapchat. You just connect your Snapchat account, upload a selfie and swipe left or right to connect with new people to follow. If both agree to 'liking' each other than you can communicate on chat apps including Snapchat and Kik. **Concerns** regarding sexual

predators who could exploit the app and set up fake profiles and message teenage users. There are also fears around inappropriate images and chat on the site which is used by children as young as 10 years of age. There are no checks on users' age.

**Ask.fm**- This app allows users to interact in a question-and-answer format with friends, peers, and anonymous users alike. The app is rated ages 13+. **Concerns** some kids have used the app for hurtful cyberbullying that has been linked to suicides. British schools have sent home letters calling for students to stop using ask.fm because of its use in several cyberbullying incidents there, and its loose regulation and lack of monitoring. In response to the uproar in the U.K.



cyberbullying.

**Kik**- is a mobile app that people can use to text with friends at high speed and with more of a "face-to-face feel" than regular texting. The app is rated ages 17+, but there is no age verification so anyone can download it. Like some other instant messenger apps, Kik allows teens to connect with others using just a username. **Concerns**- It has been revealed that many people use Kik to meet strangers for sexting. The app also been connected with

**Snapchat**- Snapchat is an app that allows users to send photos and videos that disappear from view within 10 seconds after they're received. It's rated ages 12+. **Concerns**- Some kids are using the app to send inappropriate pics because they believe the images can't be saved and circulated. But it turns out that Snapchat pics don't completely disappear from a device, and users can take a screenshot before an image vanishes in the app.



**Vine**- Twitter's mobile app that allows users to shoot and share short loops of video (6 seconds or less). It's rated 17+, but children and teens are still downloading it. **Concerns**- With the most basic creative searching, kids can find nudity, sex, drug use, offensive language and more.

**Tumblr**- Many children and young teens are active on this 17+ photo-sharing app. It can be used for sharing videos and chatting. **Concerns**- users can easily access pornographic, violent, and inappropriate content. Users need to jump through hoops to set up privacy settings and until then, all of a user's photo and content is public for all to see. Mental health experts say that Tumblr can be damaging to adolescents' mental health because it tends to glorify self-harm and eating disorders.





**Instagram-** This hugely popular photo-sharing site is owned by Facebook. Users can add cool filters or create collages of their photos and share them across Facebook and other social media platforms. **Concerns-**The app is rated 13+ and may be slightly tamer than Tumblr, but users can still find mature or inappropriate content and comments throughout the app "Trolls" or people making vicious, usually anonymous comments are common. A user can change the settings to block their location or certain followers, but many users are casual about their settings, connecting with people they don't know well or at all.

**Poof-** Hides other apps on your phone. You select which apps you would like to hide and their icons will no longer show up on your smartphone screen. **Concerns-** This app is dangerous as children have apps that they want to keep hidden from their parents, all they have to do is download this app and "poof," their screen is clear of any questionable apps.



**FMyLife-** is an online community where you can post a short caption about an unfortunate incident that has happened during your day. The caption usually starts with "today..." and ends with "FML". You can also comment on other people's stories. **Concerns** regarding inappropriate content and lack of control.

**DeviantArt-** is an online community where you can post your art and comment on other people's work. **Concerns** around inappropriate sexual content and offensive / rude comments.



**Sickipedia** is an online forum where you can submit jokes which can be viewed online. **Concerns** around sexual content, offensive and rude content and racist content.

**Line-** is a text, video and voice-messaging app that also integrates social media elements such as group chats and games. **Concerns** regarding minors accessing the app and the 'hidden chat' feature which is similar to Snapchats disappearing messages.



**Skout-** is a 'flirting app' that allows users to sign up as adults or teens. They are then placed in appropriate peer groups, where they can post feeds, pictures and chat. Users get notifications when other users in the area join and when someone 'checks' them out however points must be paid to see who it is. **Concerns** as there is no age verification.

**Burn Note-** is a messaging app that erases messages after a set period of time. However users cannot send pictures or videos via the app. **Concerns** parents should be aware of the app as it allows teens to communicate covertly, with no evidence that any conversation took place. Cyber bullying and inappropriate behaviour take place.



**MyLOL-** is a dating site for teenagers aged 13-20 years, although some users are up to 25 years. You can view other people's profiles and search for others based on age, gender and location. You can also post on its forum, send instant messages and make video calls. **Concerns** around paedophiles using the app.

**Snog-** is a teen dating site (13+) that lets you rank other people's profiles as snog, marry or avoid. These ratings are then ranked and users are featured on a top rated members list. You can also send private messages via the app. **Concerns** around paedophiles, inappropriate activities and pornographic images.



**Keek (+13)** is a social network where you can upload video updates, called 'Keeks'. Users can reply to videos with text or video comments known as 'Keekbacks'. **Concerns** around paedophiles, content and privacy issues for teens. There are no options for users to set their content to private.

**ChaCha** is described as 'the best random video chat and like Omegle instantly matches you with the coolest people around the world'. **Concerns** that the app could be used to exploit children. The app connects you with random users / strangers, and while rated 17 and over there is nothing in place to stop children from downloading it.



**BigoLive-** is described as a platform where you can start your own live stream and watch 'talented performers'. **Concerns** around inappropriate streaming and child grooming. It is believed that grown adults are making inappropriate requests to children. The app also makes

available personal information on children.

**PopJam-** allows children to create art, stories, photos and games and then share their creations with the world. They can also like and comment on others creations. **Concerns** around social pressures; collecting 'likes' and followers, causing unhealthy attitudes / expectations about social media.



**Twitch-** is a live video game website where you can live stream your own games and chat to other gamers. **Concerns** around violent games, commentators using mature language and inappropriate advertising. There are also the usual risks around live streaming, including inappropriate and unpredictable content.

**Voxer-** is a free messaging app for smartphones that allows users to send real time voice messages, photos, GIFTS and text messages. **Concerns** around cyber bullying, the sharing of content, strangers using the app for inappropriate behaviour and when you sign up the app automatically shares your location.





**Random Chat & Talk to Strangers on Video Cam App-** makes talking with strangers easy. The app is described as a way to 'meet new people, ask fun questions, share secrets or just joke around with strangers.' The apps guideline state teens under 17 years are not allowed to use the app and is strictly prohibited to sending nudes. **Concerns** regarding sexual predators using the app.

**Glide** is a video messaging app which allows you to either review your messages before sending or stream live. **Concerns** regarding users being contacted by strangers.



**Flipagram-** lets you make videos and photo/video slideshows to free popular music. You can get featured on the app and compete in free challenges, such as dance, comedy, music and beauty. **Concerns** regarding lack of content security.

**IMVU-** is a virtual world where you create an avatar and connect with people across the world. Concerns around inappropriate conversations and talking to strangers.



**WISHBONE-** is an app which can be used for private messaging and creating questions. Concerns around bullying and sexualized messaging.

**Lovoo** -is described as a place to chat, flirt, and find love, not aimed for children. The app uses location services to find people near you. **Concerns** from parents regarding inappropriate messages, no parental control and lack of online safety features.



**Sarahah**- is a website and app for Android and iPhone, where you can send completely anonymous comments and feedback to other users. **Concern** is that it is becoming increasingly popular but can be used to bully and send inappropriate messages to users. It can also link in with SnapChat, Instagram and Facebook.

**Shots**- is a photo and video sharing social network. The app is mainly centred on taking selfies but users can also take videos and chat. **Concerns** about inappropriate photographs being sent, cyberbullying and blackmail.



**Mottle**- is a place for spur of the moment conversations. Click on a user to start an audio call. At the end of the call, you are asked to rate each other. The higher you score, the better access you get to other people. **Concerns** regarding children talking to strangers.

**Habbo**- is a social networking site aimed at teenagers. **Concerns** that it has been the subject of pornographic messages.





**Roblox-** This online gaming platform is popular with kids, teens and even adults, which allows users to interact with one another in this virtual world, play games and also engage in role play. **Concerns** the game's chat feature allows online predators such as paedophiles to communicate with your child and send

them sexually explicit messages.

**MovieStarPlanet-** is an online game. You can create a famous movie star character to talk to others in the chat room, play games and watch videos. The online game has been used by predators to groom kids and sexually abuse them over the internet.

