Dangerous Apps for Kids

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For even the most tech-savvy of parents, keeping up with all of the latest apps your kid wants to download can be a real struggle. Trends change, social media platforms evolve, and new viral apps can explode onto the scene in a matter of days. Making things even harder, it can be difficult to tell which apps really are a threat to your child's well-being. To help you out, we've compiled a list of the most dangerous apps for kids today.

***Snapchat**: Some kids are using the app to send racy 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. The GPS-powered Snap Map enables friends & stranger to know your child's exact whereabouts.*	***TikTok**: App for creating & sharing short videos. 13 is the minimum age, but there is no way to validate age. All accounts are set on the public setting so strangers can connect with kids. TicTok includes discussions on sexual encounters & positions, dangerous physical challenges that have lead to death, raunchy adult humor, & substance use in social setting. Predators can use direct messaging to contact kids.*	***Discord & Twitch**: Place for kids to hang out & talk gaming. Features chatrooms, direct messaging, voice chat & video calls. Users can join different "servers" & within each server are different "channels." Kids exposed to hate speech, porn, bullying, suicidal ideation, body image shaming, & online predators.*
***Zoomerang**. A video creator that allows you to capture short videos, apply filters & add special effects/music. Location tracker while using the app. Video's can be manipulated. Cyberbullying occurs regularly on the app.*	***Holla:** Is tailored for teenagers. It offers a place to mingle, share photos/videos, and express themselves. Poor parental control, and users can interact without revealing themselves. The app has addictive qualities. Youth can be exposed to cyberbullying and explicit or disturbing material.*	***Instagram:** Photo & video sharing platform owned by Facebook. Main danger is the sheer amount of inappropriate content kids can access in a matter of seconds, especially porn. Privacy settings do no prevent explicit searches, it just prevents certain users from viewing your child's post.*
***Hoop**: Think of it as Tinder meets Snapchat. App allows kids as young as 12 to form connections w/ total strangers. By swiping through profiles, people can pick who they would like to have a conversation with. User can request Snapchat user name and then continue conversation there.*	***BeReal** is a simple photo sharing app that asks users to take genuine photos every day at different times. The app shares all locations by default. Kids at risk of viewing sexual & violent pics. Can connect & message strangers for private conversations. Limited parental controls. Known to cause anxiety in users.*	***Spotify:** A music streaming and podcast app. Pornography can be easily accessed, with a lot making it past filters. Songs detailing rapes and killings slip through as long as they don't use those keywords. Podcasts called "Audio Porn" feature erotic narratives, explicit discussions and sex sounds.*

***Tinder**: Dating app or an anonymous hook-up locator. Privacy settings allow teens as young as 13 to register. Helps people to find others in their geographic area. App puts kids at risk for catfishing, sexual harassment, stalking and worse.*	***Omegle Copycats:** Omegle was an anonymous video chatting platform that paired you with a complete stranger somewhere in the world. It was shut down in 2023 due to claims of abuse. Tons of copycat platforms were created to do the same thing. Alternatives include OmeTV, Chatroulette, Monkey, & Emerald.*	***X:** Is the go-to source for porn. Twitter is so expansive & has so many users that app's search bar is like a google search. Kids know how to use Twitter to find porn because the platform will not look suspicious. Kids don't need to sign up for Twitter account to access content, can do so anonymously through any web browser.*
***YikYak:** is an anonymous chatting app that lets users within a 5-mile radius read posted messages. It is a breeding ground for bullying, violence, & sexual content. Very dangerous app.*	***Telegram:** Free messaging app similar to WhatsApp, but has group chat to up to 200,000 people. High rate of predation. Chats can be in secret mode & can disappear. Location feature. No parental controls. Porn GIFs, images link to videos shared.*	***Bumble:** Dating app where women decide who to initiate conversations & connections. If offers swiping features. IT IS NOT AN APP FOR CHILDREN OR TEENS. Users can disguise their identity. Youth exposed to explicit material and predatory adults.*
***Vault Apps & Jailbreak**: are used to hide content on phones & tablets from photos to files to other apps kids do want their parents to know about. They often look harmless like a calculator. They often need a passcode to gain entry. Some even take photos if someone is trying to figure out the combination.*	***Yubo**: is a social media app that lets kids make friends with strangers, play games, and even video chat together. High rate of predation. No real parental controls. Rated 17+, but easy to bypass age requirement. Kids could encounter sex, nudity, profanity, violence, drug/alcohol use.*	***Tumblr**: 17+ app for photo sharing and chatting, common with children & teens. Users can easily access porn, violent & inappropriate content. Tends to glorify self-harm & eating disorders. Users found it is very hard to set up privacy settings which means all photos & content are public for all to see.*
***Monkey:** The new Omegle. Allows users to be randomly matched with new people from all over the world for video chats. There is no age verification, though the Apple rating is 17. High levels of sexual images, violence & profanity. Lack of privacy settings.*	***Roblox:** Is an open-world video game popular with kids 5-12. It is a platform for hosting millions of games that users create and publish. In-game chat feature where kids can run into profanity, sexual content, & drugs/alcohol. Risk of predation.*	***Fizz:** Anonymous social media is gaining popularity with high school students. It creates an extremely toxic school community. Risk of sexual language, profanity, bullying, violence. No parental controls.*
***YouTube**: Video viewing and sharing app. It contains explicit sexual content and cyberbullying via the comments section. Studies show YouTube has addictive qualities.*	*IMVU: Stands for Instant Messaging Virtual Universe. Virtual world games. Sexual encounters & nudity common in 18+, but sexual talk common at all age levels. Randomly paired with other users. All profiles are public.*	***Episode**: Cartoon app that is an **incredibly** foul app with endless dangers. Options to "play" stories that include profanity, sex, drugs, alcohol, & violence. Often used by predators. No parental control!*

Compiled by: Catholic Charities - Social Concerns of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis