PARENTS GUIDE TO PHONE APPS

It’s a parent’s job to protect their kids but we know it can be difficult when new apps appear to be created every day. Educate your children on social networking safety: never share personal information, don’t talk or meet up with strangers and know that once you hit send, there is no getting it back. Be proactive as possible: know what apps they are using, how they are using it and who they are talking to. Here’s a quick guide on some apps that your kids may be using or some apps that you may want to utilize to keep an eye on them.

Common Social Networking Apps

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, TikTok, Tumblr: Most commonly used for posting on their page but these apps also have private messaging

Snapchat: This app allows people to send pictures, texts & videos to one another that then “disappear” after they have been viewed. Other video sharing apps: MarcoPolo, HouseParty & More

Whatsapp: This app is an all-in-one hub for messaging, sharing pics/videos, video calling and you’re able to share your location with others

HIP aka Hide it Pro: This app is disguised as a music manager but is actually meant for hiding pics, videos, text messages and other apps

Calculator+: This app is disguised as a calculator but if you enter the passcode, you’ll reveal hidden photos, contacts, browser history and passwords. Other apps to hide contact include: KeepSafe, HPS, SA & More

Line: This app is an all-in-one mobile hub for chatting, sharing pics/videos and free texting/video calls. Users can also decide how long their message will be visible for.

Tinder: This app is a popular app that allows users to “rate” other profiles and locate people via GPS tracking. You can also turn on a 10-mile radius to search for people close by

Whisper: This app allows users to anonymously share what they’re truly thinking. Although anonymous, other users can still determine your city, state & county. Other Anonymous social network apps: Yik Yak Generator, After School, Anomo, Pstt! Anonymous & More

Kik: This app allows users to exchange videos, photos, sketches and gifs. They can also receive messages from people who they are not friends with

Vora: This is a dieting app that allows users to track their fasting efforts but also allows users to connect with one another. While the intent of the app is for health benefits, it could be dangerous for kids prone to eating issues

Phone Monitoring Apps

Apps such as Bark, Qustodio, WebWatcher, Eset and more allow for various features such as monitoring social networks, tracking calls and text messages, blocking apps and websites from the phones, location tracking, panic buttons, viewing deleted messages, website history, call logs, geo-fencing alerts, teens driving over speed limits & more

Family Locator Apps

Apps such as Life360, GPSWox, Glympse, Sygic and more allow for various features such as tracking your family members in real-time, previewing location history, getting alerts for when they leave set geo-locations and seeing their phone’s battery life