



# Ten Apps Parents Need to Know

A big part of parenting tweens and teens is educating ourselves about the latest social media apps and spotting potential pitfalls before our children get hurt. From simple embarrassment to much more dangerous situations, the risks of social media and other app use are real.

Use this information to start or continue conversations with your children, expressing your concerns and listening to their feelings. By empowering them to use these apps safely—and knowing which apps to simply avoid—they will be more equipped to take on adulthood when the time comes. **ParentingU is here to help you navigate the amazing journey we call parenting, together.**



## Among Us

Among Us is an online multiplayer social deduction game. It takes place in a space-themed setting and players take on one of two roles. They then try to determine who the imposters are. It requires four to ten players to start a game. Among Us includes violence as players can be killed by the imposter and users can chat as they play.



## 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 app or an anonymous hook-up locator by 20-somethings, college students, and even younger teens and tweens. The app is rated ages 17+, but Tinder's privacy policy allows teens as young as 13 to register.



## Calculator%

This app looks like a calculator but functions like a secret photo vault. Photo Hider, App Locker, Hide It Pro and Vaulty are other apps that hide media and activity.



## Twitter

Twitter encourages users to interact quickly and often by limiting the number of characters allowed per tweet. Users can set their profiles to public or private to control who follows them.



## Houseparty

Houseparty is a video chatting app that gained popularity during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic. Video is streamed live, so there's nothing to keep kids from inappropriate content. Users can send links via chat and even take screenshots.



## WhatsApp

WhatsApp is a messenger app to send text, images, audio and video. A feature allows users to enable disappearing messages that automatically erase after one week. However, that feature can be disabled.



## Instagram

Many kids and teens are now creating fake Instagram accounts, "finsta," to hide content from parents. Kids and teens also like to communicate using Instagram direct messages because many parents don't think to check those messages.



## YouTube

YouTube is an app to house and share videos. Though you can control privacy settings, inappropriate content frequently appears in both all-ages content and children's-focused content. Comments on videos can also be extremely inappropriate and hurtful.



## Snapchat

Snapchat is the way most teens communicate with each other, sending photos and messages that disappear within seconds. Stories go away after 24 hours.



## TikTok

TikTok is an app for creating and sharing short videos. Many videos across the network include inappropriate language, and by default, all accounts are set to public, allowing strangers access to message your children and view their content.

Information from *A Complete Guide to Potentially Dangerous Apps for Kids* - FamilyEducation



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