

KNOW WHAT'S APPENING

SOCIAL MEDIA APPS PARENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT



The **Bad** Websites, Apps, and Devices:

Ask.fm



This popular cyberbullying app is used to ask embarrassing and hurtful questions of kids, often urging them to do harmful pranks or crimes.

After School



This app creates a chat room for every school, where students can anonymously engage in every conceivable form of cyberbullying; messages often include references to pornography, alcohol, and drug use.

Houseparty



This app allows for unmonitored group video chats where up to 8 people can participate at once; extremely popular with predators, who are constantly lurking where young people gather.

Tik Tok (formerly Musical.ly)



This app was originally designed to allow kids to make their own music videos (popular with elementary school students). It is used to post videotaped derogatory comments to other students.

The Calculator %



There are dozens of these very popular apps designed to hide the photos and videos in a teenager's phone, or the icons on their home screen; it also hides your internet search history.

Wishbone



This app allows users to compare kids against each other and rate them on a scale.

TBH



"To Be Honest" app encourages kids to post and answer polls designed to be hurtful to other students; these so-called "rate & berate" polls are a frequent feature of cyberbullying apps.

Hot or Not



A "rate & berate" app based on student-generated polls that often target specific teens with insulting language; questions such as "Who's the ugliest kid in your school?" are common.

KIK Messenger



Anyone on this photo-sharing app can chat with other users, send pictures and privately message without parents seeing; very popular for sexting purposes (sending naked or semi-nude photos electronically).

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The Good Websites, Apps, and Devices:

The Circle: Smart Family Controls Device



This device connects to the family wifi and allows parents to tailor age-appropriate content for everyone in the home, and control the time kids spend on their devices.

Footprint Friday



A program parents can join at smartsocial.com; it sends parents an email alerting them of all the ways their child appeared in social media from the previous week.

Bark



This app is designed to monitor the texts and messages kids write, and to detect words associated with bullying, sexting, signs of depression, or suicide; if these words are detected, a warning text is sent to the parent's phone.

Face Up - Let's Help



This app allows students to pair up with an adult at school they feel they can trust, allows kids to quickly and anonymously report criminal behavior.

www.crisischat.org



A national suicide prevention website that offers online emotional support, crisis intervention, and suicide prevention services; specializes in helping adolescents with a wide variety of emotional problems.

Smartsocial.com



A website that provides a wealth of information to parents about social media: how kids use and misuse it, good and dangerous apps for kids.

Life 360



This app allows parents to keep track of family-members; enables "geofencing" to alert when their child crosses certain predetermined boundaries; also encourages safe teen driving with periodic driving reports.

www.mymobilewatchdog.com



A website parents can use to monitor every text, photo, and email their child sends and receives; parents can block access to certain sites, and can use to geolocate their child's physical location.

Parental Control & Kid Tracker



An app that allows parents to manage kids' screen time, track children, and control which apps they have access to.