

## Navigating the Digital World: Parent Tip Sheet

Duplicate Calculators: Your device should only have one calculator. If you are showing more than one, check your settings under Apps or Data usage to find the hiding app. The calculator installed on the phone does not require any data, so if you have one that is using data, then that one may be a hiding app.

Hidden folders or apps: Sometimes students will hide apps within folders thinking that parents won't check through all of the pages. Make sure to look through each page of the folder to see if your student is trying to hide any app in there.

### Apps to watch for:



**Holla**: Allows users to conduct live video chats with random strangers. These strangers could be doing anything when you connect in the live chat. There is also a "Nearby" feature that uses the phone's location to connect the user with strangers who are somewhere near their location.



**Hoop**: Companion app to Snapchat that was designed to allow Snapchat users to expand their circle of "friends." This app will send them other users' profiles so that they can determine if they want to connect or not. Your profile is also sent to other users for their review to connect with you. They try to connect you with people in your age range, but there is no verification for the age submitted.

**YOLO**

**YOLO**: This is an anonymous add-on app that works in conjunction with SnapChat (user must have SnapChat to use the app). This app allows the user to provide feedback on another person's photo anonymously. Cyberbullying and inappropriate/ suggestive language are common.



**What's App**: Owned by Facebook and lets you text, post status updates, send videos, share your location and make video and voice calls over the internet without data limits or international charges. Once connected, it wants access to your address book.

**kik**

**KIK**: Often linked through Instagram, Kik works with Android, iOS, Amazon and Microsoft. It is an alternative app to text messaging that allows communication with strangers, and has been used in high profile crimes. It promotes in app purchases, group chats based on common interests and has a built in web search that leads to third party sites.



**IMVU: 3D Avatar Creator & Chat**: Build alter-egos, dress in sexy clothes (vulgar and exaggerated image), contains DM (direct messenger) and chat rooms. The App will ask you to take invasive surveys (which gives age & location) to earn app currency. Virtual sex is COMMON.

**whisper**

**Whisper**: Social Confessional, mostly sexual in nature with a strong reference for "hook ups". Pictures show nearly nude photos, content can be dark, and confessions include depression, substance abuse and lies told to employers or teachers. Though it's "anonymous" the app encourages users to exchange personal info in the "meet up section."



**SnapChat**: Students commonly send nude images through this app thinking that the content will disappear in a few seconds. There are NOT many options for parental controls with this app as parents cannot see the content students send after it disappears. If profiles aren't private, they can be friended or followed by strangers, and this app is commonly involved with sexual exploitation cases.



**WeChat:** Sign up with your phone number and users can share text, audio & location. Know that there are some built-in features that make your location discoverable and your content shareable with people nearby, and there are also plenty of opportunities to connect with strangers.



**Tumblr:** Most popular blogging platform, but easy to find porn, includes violence, self-harm, drug use, and offensive language. Posts are copied and shared- which is normally the goal, and profiles are automatically public so most create a second profile.



**Askfm:** Q&A based website and app. The site doesn't monitor content, which opens the door for inappropriate content & that's very easy to find. Bullying has been a major concern in the past.



**GroupMe:** Has no limits for direct or group messages, and encourages users to send photos, videos and calendar links. The embedded GIF's have adult themes such as drinking and sex. Not an inherently bad app, but you want to make sure you know who your kids are talking to.



**TikTok:** One of the most downloaded apps, lacks privacy settings and is a sister app of musically. Children as young as 9 are exposing their identities, and opening them up for harassment.



**Houseparty:** Live-streaming app. You never know what content you will be exposed to with live streaming apps because it is all happening live. Easy to join groups and meet strangers.



**Monkey:** Fun chatting and meeting app, users are randomly matched with strangers for a video chat using snapchat to connect. They have a 10-15 second video chat with a stranger that they can choose to continue. Before accepting or rejecting, age, gender, and location are given.



**MeetMe:** An open network to chat with anyone online. Several details are required- first AND last name, age and zip code at registration- or you can use your FB account. App wants to use location services to find closest matches wherever they go



**Yubo:** Tinder for Teens: swipe right or left to accept or reject profiles. If you accept you can hook up via snapchat or Instagram through links in the user's bio. It's VERY easy to lie about your age. You have to share your location as well as other personal information, and it encourages you to interact with strangers.



**Blendr:** Hook-up app known for providing too much personal information. Similar to Grindr and Tinder, though it aims to be less sexual, it still uses location services, and allows you to see the faces of nearby users. The app keeps track of you throughout the day, and also who you've run into, with photos of them- when and where- providing the information to others as well. It has chat rooms, and no way to verify information provided by users, though it has a lengthy questionnaire.



**Omegle:** Chat Website that puts two strangers together to either text chat or video chat. this is a very easy no fuss way to meet strangers and has "interest boxes" to help match you with someone of the same interest. This site is filled with people looking for sexual chat, and links to porn sites.



**Psst:** An anonymous app that also lets the user's threads disappear. Students can say whatever they want with no accountability and with the conversations disappearing, it is harder for parents to monitor what is being said.



**\*Fortnite:** Mild Violence. The US has an age rating of 13, and IOS gave it 12, though they don't consider it "illegal"- violence however is classified as "using whatever weapons you can find or make to fend off the monsters of the Storm and save the survivors. Damage is dealt by numbers and life bars and monsters disappear in a purple flash when defeated." With the chat ability- kids are exposed to profanity, racism, and voice chat messages with strangers. If you hear them

talk about “battle Royale” it is a huge battle with 100’s of strangers. One way to overcome that is take off the headphones and play with the sound on around you. Text chat cannot be turned off, and there are no filters. You can report or mute. There is no pause button at all in the game. In addition, the Fortnite installation process requires gamers to enable installations from unknown apps. But doing so puts users at higher risk. A user would need to navigate to this setting later to disable third- party installations as it does not reset automatically. The result of these actions will be further malware infections and a higher compromise in privacy and security. There are benefits: teamwork, cooperation, and reflexes.

**Roblox:** This is a game creation app where kids design their own games and play games that others have designed in a multiplayer environment. It can be a fun game for kids to play with friends, but parents need to be sure they know who their kids are playing with. There is a “safe chat” mode for kids under 13, but with chatting, kids would be able to talk to many other users on the game as well. You do have the option to turn the chat option off, if this is a concern. You can also set privacy settings to only allow children to access age appropriate games. It is recommended that you set a four digit PIN code with your settings, so that they child cannot change them to get broader access.

**Minecraft:** Multiplayer sandbox adventure game. Players explore the world and use the game’s building blocks to customize their world with anything they can imagine. That also means that other players can create whatever they can imagine as well, which could lead to younger children being exposed to potential offensive/ inappropriate content while exploring random worlds online. If you want to see another players game, there is no way to know what you’re getting into until you’ve joined, so there may be obscene material. The core of the game is about being creative and building items and structures.

### What can parents do?

Follow your children online. (Create those accounts)

Check unknown utilities!

Check your own location services.

Count your tags & Check-ins.

Sync your devices

Check App Store Regularly

Check age restrictions for downloads

Follow friends for duplicate accounts.

### iphone Security Options:

Turn on your iCloud Family Account:

Sync your safari for a search history

Sync your contacts for new friends

Sync your Apps for new downloads

Sync your Updates for any updates they put on their phone

\*\*Remember this works two ways. If you have an extra iPad or Mac this may be your best device to use rather than your daily phone.

If you do not see these options, you will need to have the Apple store put you on the **same iCloud account.**



Other options:

**Family Share:** group all iphones in the family together and set restrictions to all devices in the group (Downtime, Always Allowed Apps, App Limits and Content/ Privacy Restrictions)

**Disney:** Great for Wifi but on cellular data you would need **Disney Circle GO**. \$129 for the equipment, then \$9.99 after first year. Limits apps, websites, and usage. easy to install.

**Bark:** monthly fee \$10 or \$99 yearly. Provides alerts when concerning messages are written, easier for android then for iPhone. Watches for cyberbullying, sexting, drug related content and depression.

**Gallery Guardian:** Free- location with geo fencing and watches for inappropriate photos. No websites.

Android Options:

**Net Nanny** – Excellent web filtering, location tracking, time monitoring & ability to block apps, but does not have text/ call monitoring.

**Kaspersky Safe Kids** – Very affordable, web filtering, screen time management & location tracking. They also have a free version with several features.

**Google Family Link:** Gives parents more control over their child’s Android devices – screen time, time of day controls, and apps downloads, but also gives the child access to a Google account with an email address.

Update Location Services:

Settings, Privacy, Location.

Never or While Using. Debate: Does the app truly need to use your location?

note: the same can be said for camera, microphone, and photos.

How can you stay up to date on all this?

-Set up Google alerts to your gmail account

-Watch for trending apps

-Go to the app store and look for similar apps to mentioned dangers apps

-Check out [CommonSenseMedia.Com](http://CommonSenseMedia.Com) for reviews on all types of media content.

Monitoring devices to consider:

Disney Circle	Qustodio	Avira	Net Nanny	Mspy
Nesanity	Covenant Eyes	TeenSafety Control		Web Watcher
McAfee Safe Eyes	Verity	Content Barrier		Spy Agent
Pure Sight	Mobile Watchdog	Elite Keylogger		Cyber Sitter