













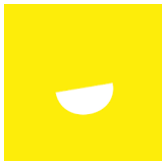















A guide to the apps our children and young people (CYP) are using now, and the dangers that lurk.









Please remember whenever and wherever CYP are spending time online, predators will be sure to follow.









NAME	LOGO	DESCRIPTION	AGE RATING	POSITIVE ASPECTS	RISKS TO YOUNG PEOPLE
TikTok		Create, share and discover 60 second videos. New songs are promoted and dance crazes created. The most popular app in 2020!		Fun! Get creative! Connect with friends!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strangers are able to directly contact children whose accounts are not set to private. However, young people enjoy the aspect of receiving “likes” therefore they are unlikely to take privacy seriously.</li> <li>• Experience grooming</li> <li>• Receive abusive or sexually explicit messages.</li> <li>• View adult content.</li> <li>• Copy risky behaviour – i.e. experiments and dares</li> </ul>
Zoom		The go to video streaming platform. Provides remote conferencing services, online meetings and mobile collaboration		Connect with friends! Teachers can conduct lessons. Learn, study or complete homework with friends.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience grooming</li> <li>• Receive abusive or sexually explicit messages.</li> <li>• Copy risky behaviour – i.e. experiments and dares</li> </ul>

Facebook		Popular social network app. Not so popular with young people these days but still one to be aware of.		Post photos & videos. Connect with friends. Status updates. Wall posts. Private messaging. Play games.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If account is not made private, strangers are able to directly contact children whose accounts are not set to private. However, young people enjoy the aspect of receiving “likes” therefore they are unlikely to take privacy seriously.</li> <li>• Experience grooming</li> <li>• Receive abusive or sexually explicit messages.</li> <li>• Copy risky behaviour – i.e. experiments and dares</li> </ul>
Snapchat	 <b>Snapchat</b>	Messaging & photo app		Take photos and share with friends without the risk of them going public. Use of funny photo filters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strangers are able to directly contact children whose accounts are not set to “private messaging”, gaining access to young people’s story posts.</li> <li>• Photo snaps disappear after a few seconds giving young people a false sense of safety. However, recipients can take a screenshot of somebody’s photo using another phone.</li> <li>• Sexting can cause emotional turmoil, especially if the message is accidentally sent to the wrong person.</li> <li>• Receive abusive or sexually explicit messages.</li> <li>• Young people inform us the app is used by drug dealers to carefully choose their target audience and add to a private page where various drugs are advertised.</li> </ul>
Instagram		Messaging & photo app		Take photos and share with friends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strangers are able to directly contact children whose accounts are not set to private.</li> <li>• Comparing self to others can seriously impact body image</li> <li>• Receive abusive or sexually explicit messages.</li> </ul>

Twitter		Social media network		<p>Blog thoughts via “tweets” in a public domain. Users gain followers, who read status updates. Also used widely by businesses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Twitter is automatically public</b></li> <li>• <b>Receive abusive or sexually explicit messages.</b></li> <li>• <b>View adult content.</b></li> <li>• <b>Everything that is entered in twitter remains within the public eye even if accounts are set to private. An opinion that is stated now may affect a person's reputation later on in life.</b></li> </ul>
Yubo		<p>Social media network Previously called Yellow, then re-branded after challenges about safety</p>		<p>Designed to “make new friends”. Create live video streams. Users can swipe right on someone else’s profile to ‘like’ them, and swipe left to pass on to see other people’s profiles. Send direct messages</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Known as Tinder, but for teens.</b></li> <li>• <b>Unlimited strangers are able to directly contact children by joining their live streams.</b></li> <li>• <b>Receive emotional abuse or be groomed to perform sexually explicit acts on camera.</b></li> <li>• <b>Adult content.</b></li> <li>• <b>Possible financial exploitation.</b></li> </ul>
Omegle		Online video chat app where it		<p>The service randomly pairs users in one-on-one chat sessions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>There is no need to register, creating risk from anonymous predators.</b></li> <li>• <b>Chat anonymously using the names "You" and "Stranger" or "Stranger 1" and "Stranger 2" in the case of Spy mode.</b></li> <li>• <b>Receive emotional abuse or be groomed to perform sexually explicit acts on camera.</b></li> <li>• <b>It is widely known by teens that strangers often openly masturbate on screen.</b></li> </ul>

YouTube		Online video-sharing platform		Create personal account. Create music playlists. Public profile. Live streaming.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grooming, emotional and sexual abuse.</li> <li>• Adult content.</li> </ul>
Bumble		Dating app		Meet new people online.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aimed at over 18's.</li> <li>• Adult content.</li> <li>• Arranging to meet with strangers.</li> <li>• Grooming, emotional and sexual abuse.</li> </ul>
Google Hangouts		Communication software		Allows text, audio and video communication, one 2 one or group.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The person receiving the call or video chat doesn't need to have a Gmail account as you can call using a number or email address.</li> </ul>
Lipsi		Anonymous messaging		Attracts the boldest; who want to step out of their comfort zone, meet new people in class, on campus, in a cafe...Honest thoughts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The app links to other social media apps so that people can leave anonymous feedback on posts.</li> <li>• Young people can engage in live video chats with strangers.</li> <li>• Chat history can also be deleted easily.</li> <li>• Grooming, emotional and sexual abuse.</li> </ul>
Holla		Social media		Random Video Chatting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allows the user to meet strangers from all around the world over video chat for a designated amount of time.</li> <li>• Predators; Grooming, emotional and sexual abuse.</li> <li>• Adult content.</li> <li>• Addictive.</li> </ul>

Telegram Messenger		Social network Cloud-based instant messaging and voice over IP service.		Send texts, images, videos completely free. Delivers messages faster than any other <b>application</b> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Secret” chats are encouraged.</li> <li>• Usernames are totally public and can be searched by anyone.</li> <li>• Messages can self-destruct if a timer is set, so it cannot be traced.</li> <li>• Features adult content including pornography.</li> </ul>
BitLife		A life simulator.		Start as a character and make virtual life choices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult content</li> <li>• Choices include options such as Threesomes, one night stands, substance misuse etc.</li> </ul>
Roblox		Online game platform		Explore create, play games. No limits to your imagination. Interact and make friends.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exposed to violent shoot and kill game play, horror games, and other inappropriate virtual behaviours.</li> <li>• Avatars having virtual sex.</li> <li>• Unmoderated chat feature.</li> <li>• Grooming.</li> <li>• Bullying.</li> <li>• Do your children know who they are talking to or playing with?</li> <li>• In app purchases become addictive.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
Pinterest		Online interactive pin board used for photo-sharing		Designed to enable saving and discovery of information on the World Wide Web using images. Users must register and sign in.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult content.</li> </ul>

Houseparty		Social network		Connect with others. Engage in group video chat. In app gaming. Trivia.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If chat room is not “locked”, strangers can drop in and talk to your children.</li> <li>• Adult content.</li> <li>• Grooming</li> <li>• Bullying</li> <li>• Geo-location feature can be used by predators to pinpoint children’s exact location.</li> <li>• When your child signs up to Houseparty, they are asked to hand over their entire contact list, which will be stored on the app’s servers.</li> <li>• Reports that people have been hacked.</li> </ul>
Whatsapp		Messaging and Voice over service owned by facebook		Connect with friends and family in group messages. Children can only message friends who are already added on their phone list. The group chat function allows up to 256 people to chat in one conversation stream.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children’s friends may start up a group including people unknown to your child. Therefore they can come into contact with strangers on group chats.</li> </ul>
Twitch		Livestream multiplayer games		Watch and chat with millions of other fans from around the world.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Live streaming</li> <li>• Adult content.</li> <li>• Private messaging</li> <li>• Predators and grooming</li> </ul>
Grindr		Dating and Networking app aimed at gay and bisexual males		Chat, Send photos and share location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult content.</li> <li>• Predators and grooming</li> <li>• Financial exploitation.</li> </ul>