

KNOWING WHAT'S ON YOUR CHILD'S SMARTPHONE

A parent's guide to apps



With the widespread use of smartphones among teens and preteens, the district is finding a number of apps being used for cyberbullying, sexting and accessing pornography. While many of these apps can be used for wholesome purposes, we strongly recommend that all parents be proactive in monitoring smartphone use. New apps with questionable content or features are being developed all the time. Becoming familiar with the types of apps are on you child's device will help build trust and keep unwanted content out of their hands.



MESSAGING APPS

There are several apps that act as free alternatives to text messages sent over regular phone and data plans.

These apps are typically seen on iPods and tablets, but are also common on smartphones. A few of these messaging platforms are popular networks for sexting because users feel a greater sense of privacy than typical phone text messaging services.

Examples:

- Viber
- Telegram
- Kik
- Jott
- WhatsApp

APPS FOR HIDING THINGS

Many applications exist for the sole purpose of hiding things from plain view. In many cases these apps allow users to hide photos, messages, and even other apps the user may want to keep secret. Some of these apps have deceptive names or icons (Calculator%). Other apps provide platforms where users can post anonymously.

Examples:

- Secret
- Poof
- Calculator%
- Vaulty
- Secret

SOCIAL APPS

Social media and other interactive apps are commonplace among all smartphone users. However, many of these networks contain adult material not far removed from popular content. Others are notorious for cyberbullying, and many allow private messaging and photo sharing between strangers. It's important to know how your child uses these apps

Examples:

- Twitter
- Hot or Not
- ASKfm
- AfterSchool
- Whisper

PHOTO & LIVE STREAM APPS

Apps for sharing photos and videos have always been popular among teens. Many of these apps do not have content filters, and privacy settings are sometimes nonexistent. Live streaming apps are also popular among teens. These platforms allow users to connect via live video feed. Oversharing and chatting with strangers are common issues.

Examples:

- HouseParty
- Instagram
- Snapchat
- Omegle
- Live.ly

DATING APPS

Dating apps typically allow users to create profiles - complete with personal information and photos - and browse other user profiles. It is possible for users to create anonymous or misleading profiles. Private messaging features help users arrange to meet in person. Some applications have specifically been designed to match users for casual sexual encounters.

Examples:

- Yubo
- Tinder
- Skout
- Down
- Bumble



JAILBREAKING AND ROOTING

'Jailbreaking' an iPhone or 'Rooting' an Android phone are terms for hacking one's own device to attain privileged control. Jailbreaking devices running the Apple iOS operating system allows a user to modify the operating system and install non-officially approved apps (sideloading). The Cydia app (pictured, top) allows users to install software unavailable on the App Store, such as apps that have the ability to hide questionable applications. Rooting Android phones allows users to overcome limitations that carriers and hardware manufacturers place on devices. Instructions for rooting and jailbreaking are widely available online.



BASIC INTERNET & SMARTPHONE SAFETY GUIDELINES



- Keep computers and devices in high-traffic areas of your home.
- Establish limits for which online sites your child may visit and for how long.
- Surf the Internet with your children and let them show you what they like to do online.
- Monitor privacy and parental settings. Review messages and apps regularly.
- Know your child's logins (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) and online friends. Don't follow them ... be them!
- Set restrictions for deleting messages and installing/deleting apps.
- Continually talk with your children about online safety.



- Encourage your children to think before they post: What would family, a prospective employer or college recruiter think of it? Keep in mind most employers search job candidates online. Encourage kids to think critically about online behavior.
- Inform your child that what they post is public and permanent, even content that has seemingly been deleted.
- Kids and teens should never share their passwords with their peers, not even with close friends.
- Install web filters and set privacy controls on devices. However, understand that filters and controls only go so far in blocking unwanted content. Open, honest communication is the best tool to keep kids safe.



- Talk with your children about the risks of communicating online with people they don't know.
- Encourage youth not to respond to cyberbullying, threats or other aggressive online behavior. Encourage them to tell an adult if they encounter online aggression. Block individuals if necessary.
- Inform your children that discussions about sex or sharing suggestive pictures may draw attention from predators and law enforcement.
- Know who is connecting with your child online and set rules for social media, messaging, emailing, and online gaming.

ACRONYMS AND SLANG



1174 - Party meeting place or wild party

182 - I hate you

420 - Marijuana

459, 143 or ILU - I love you

5EX - Sex

9 - Parent watching

99 - Parent gone

8 - Oral sex

182 - I hate you

AF - As f***

ATTYO - Anything that turns you on

Broken - Hungover from alcohol

CD9 - Code 9/Parents around

CID - Acid (drug)

CU46 - See you for sex

DOC - Drug of choice

DM - Direct message

F2F - Face to face, a.k.a. Facetime

FWB - Friends with benefits

GNOC - Get naked on camera

IWSN - I want sex now

IPN - I'm posting naked

KOTL - Kiss on the lips

KPC - Keeping parents clueless

LH6 - Let's have sex

Lit - Active/popular or drunk/stoned

(L)MIRL - Let's meet in real life

MOS - Mom over shoulder

NIFOC - Naked in front of computer

NSFW - Not suitable for work

PAW - Parents are watching

PIR - Parents in room

POS - Parents over shoulder

PRON - Porn

RU/18 - Are you over 18?

RUH - Are you horny?

SUGARPIC - Suggestive or erotic photo

TDTM - Talk dirty to me

THOT - That hoe over there

WTTT - Want to trade pictures?

WYRN - What's your real name?

Zerg - To gang up on someone

RESOURCES



NetSmartz

Provides age-appropriate resources to help teach kids how to be safer online.



Common Sense Media

Provides independent age-based ratings and reviews for all types of media (movies, apps, etc.).



OpenDNS

Filtering service that provides parental control options across all family devices.



Connect Safely

Educates users of connected technology (social media, mobile, etc.) about safety, privacy and security.