

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 that are a distraction in the classroom and are being used for cyberbullying, sexting and accessing pornography. Not all the apps listed on this sheet are harmful or dangerous. Many can be used for wholesome purposes. However, 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 that are on you child's device can 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
- MessageMe
- 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 simply allow users to securely store personal items. In other cases, the intent is to hide apps, photos, messages, or other items the user may want to keep secret. These app may also have deceptive names or icons.

Examples:

- Burn Note
- Poof
- Calculator%
- Cyber Dust
- VaporChat



SOCIAL APPS

Social media and other interactive applications 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.

Examples:

- Twitter
- Yik Yak
- Tumblr
- Omegle
- Ask.fm
- Whisper



PHOTO & VIDEO APPS

Apps for posting and sharing photos and videos have always been popular among teens and preteens. Many of these apps do not have content filters, and privacy settings are sometimes nonexistent. Several apps also make the claim that users can share photos that will be deleted from a recipient's device after a time period established by the sender.

Examples:

- Vine
- Instagram
- Snapchat
- Keek
- Shots of Me



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:

- Grouper
- Tinder
- Skout
- Hinge
- Down



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	KOTL - Kiss on the lips
420 - Marijuana	KPC - Keeping parents clueless
459, 143 or ILU - I love you	LH6 - Let's have sex
5EX - Sex	(L)MIRL - Let's meet in real life
9 - Parent watching	MOS - Mom over shoulder
99 - Parent gone	NIFOC - Naked in front of computer
8 - Oral sex	NSFW - Not suitable for work
182 - I hate you	PAW - Parents are watching
ATTYO - Anthing that turns you on	PIR - Parents in room
Broken - Hungover from alcohol	POS - Parents over shoulder
CD9 - Code 9/Parents around	PRON - Porn
CID - Acid (drug)	RU/18 - Are you over 18?
CU46 - See you for sex	RUH - Are you horny?
DOC - Drug of choice	SUGARPIC - Suggestive or erotic photo
F2F - Face to face, a.k.a. Facetime	TDTM - Talk dirty to me
GNOC - Get naked on camera	THOT - That hoe over there
GYPO - Get your pants off	WTFP - Want to trade pictures?
IWSN - I want sex now	WYRN - What's your real name?
IPN - I'm posting naked	Zerg - To gang up on someone
J/O - Jerking off	

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.