




The Good, The Bad (Potentially), & The Ugly - A list of Applications Popular with Teens

The Good:

<p>Facebook - Age: 13+</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Facebook aims to give people the power to share and make the world more open and connected. Teens tend to share personal information on their Facebook profile. This information is often visible for college admissions officers, and future employers when they search for them. Discuss Privacy Settings.	 The Facebook logo, a white lowercase 'f' on a blue square background.
<p>Facebook Messenger - Age: 13+</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Facebook messenger (owned by Facebook) allows you to chat with anyone on Facebook. To initiate a conversation with users you need to add them to your Facebook friend list. I suggest parents add their children on Facebook and monitor who they are adding as friends on both Facebook & Messenger.	 The Facebook Messenger logo, a blue speech bubble with a white lightning bolt inside, on a white rounded square background.
<p>Instagram - Age: 13+</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Instagram is a free photo sharing application that allows users to take photos, apply a filter, and share it on the service or other social networking services. This app is great for showcasing one's accomplishments and adventures. However, teens need to be careful with what pictures they do post. Instagram forbids pictures that feature full nudity, but suggestive and risqué photos are commonplace.	 The Instagram logo, a camera lens with a rainbow flash bar and the word 'Insta' on a brown background.

LinkedIn - Age: 14+

- **LinkedIn is the world's largest professional network. It is an important tool for teens that want to improve their Google results when applying to college. It is the best place to start an online image to impress colleges and future employers. It is robust and can also have video and photos added.**



Pinterest - Age: 13+

- **Pinterest is a visual discovery tool that helps users find and save ideas. It's a great source of inspiration for teens. They can use Pinterest to find studying tips, DIY's and more. Teens can have fun on Pinterest, as long as they pin pictures that are appropriate.**



Twitter - Age: 13+

- **Twitter is an online social network, which allows you to send messages up to 140 characters in length. This is a great app for teens to share their thoughts and feelings. However, teens must also be aware that anyone can view what is posted if their account is public**






YouTube - Age: 13+

- **YouTube is a free platform for watching and uploading videos, and is owned by Google. Positive videos can turn a teen's Google results into a three dimensional version of their college resume. YouTube also has a multitude of educational videos you can learn from. There is 18+ content behind a sign in wall that can be blocked by parental control.**



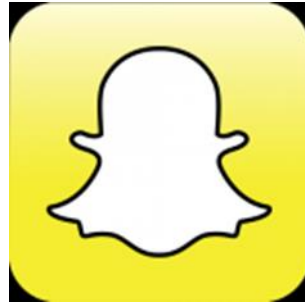
These also have the most safety controls in place.

The Bad (Potentially):

<p>ooVoo - Age: 13+</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•ooVoo is one the world's largest video and messaging apps. Parents should be aware that ooVoo is used by predators to contact underage teens. The app can allow users to group video chat with up to twelve people at one time.	
<p>Periscope - Age: 13+</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Periscope is a location based app. It allows users to watch and broadcast real time videos. It's easy to find your teens on Periscope if you know their Twitter usernames. Some teens get in trouble using the Periscope app filming pranks or questionable behavior.	
<p>SMS - Age: No age limits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•SMS text messaging is one of the primary apps that each phone has. All accounts are connected to phone numbers. SMS messenger is relatively safe for teens – It is the most trackable and least difficult for parents to monitor	

Snapchat - Age: 13+

•Snapchat is a messaging service that allows people to send photos and short videos to each other that disappear seconds after opening them. A major concern with Snapchat is how teen Snapchat users use the app, since a majority of parents are not on it and content disappears.



Tumblr - Age: 13+

•Tumblr is one of the world's most popular blogging platforms. Users tend not to use their real names, so it can be hard to find blogs without knowing a specific username. All accounts are public and content goes unmonitored. This site has only basic filters to prevent those under 18 from viewing illicit material.



Vine - Age: 17+

•Vine is owned by Twitter and is a video sharing app. Teens often post videos of their everyday life and blunders. Teens want popularity, so they try to collect more views and revines from friends and strangers.



WhatsApp - Age: 16+




•WhatsApp is a mobile messenger that is similar to short message services. Users can share location and contacts with other users. WhatsApp helps teens bypass text messaging and communicate with their friends using the app.



Because of the possibility of your Child being exposed to questionable content, I recommend you have a dialog with your teens about Sexting and inappropriate content if your teens have these apps.

The Ugly (Anonymous Apps):

<p>AfterSchool App - Age: 17+</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•AfterSchool App is an anonymous app that creates a separate chat group for every school. It has been removed twice from the AppStore because of threats and arrests. Messages often include bullying, pornography, and alcohol or drug references.	
<p>Ask.fm - Age: 13+</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Ask.fm is a social networking website where people can ask questions, with the option of anonymity. Teens often reveal too much personal information on this site, and cyberbullying is very prevalent.	
<p>BurnBook - Age: 18+</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•BurnBook is an anonymous app for posting text, photos and audio rumor messages about others. The app compiles messages by school, so the app requires access to your location. It encourages teens to screenshot the rumors and save them to their phone, which causes bullying issues.	

<p>Calculator% Private Photo - Age: 4+</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The “Private Photo (Calculator%)” app is designed to help teens hide photos and videos behind an innocent looking calculator app. This application looks like a calculator but entering a passcode opens a private area. 	
<p>Kik Messenger - Age: 17+</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Kik allows anyone on the app to contact your child and directly message them. It has been known to allow adults to communicate with preteens, and is very difficult to discern who is a predator and who is real. Some adults have been known to use this app to pretend like they are tweens and teens. Kik allows teens to bypass text messaging features of their phone. Users can connect with anyone on the network and aren't limited to their phone's contact list. 	
<p>Omegle - Age: 18+</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Omegle is an anonymous text and video chat room that connects strangers to talk with each other. The app allows you to share personal information, and also contains inappropriate and unmoderated content 	
<p>Secret - Age: 17+</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Secret is an app that allows people to share messages anonymously within their circle of friends, friends of friends, and publicly. Teens often hide behind the anonymity when posting, and forget that anonymous does not mean untraceable. 	

StreetChat - Age: 14+

•StreetChat is a live photo-sharing board designed for middle school, high school and college teens. Teens feel more freedom to send mean posts because they do not have to confirm their identity within the app. This leads to teens often posting about real people.



WhatsGoodly - Age: 17+

•WhatsGoodly is an anonymous, location-based, social polling application designed for college teens. It has a 17+ age restriction, but younger teens can still see polls and vote. There are a lot of questions about dating, relationships, alcohol, and smoking on the app



Whisper - Age: 17+

•Whisper is an anonymous social network that allows people to express themselves. Whisper reveals a user's location, which makes it easy for people to arrange to meet up. This also makes it easier for predators to locate and connect with users.



Yik Yak - Age: 18+

•Yik Yak acts like a local bulletin board for your area by showing the most recent posts from other users around you. The app is popular with high school teens, and it is often used to bully and/or harm the self-esteem of fellow teens.



YouNow - Age: 13+

•YouNow is a popular broadcasting platform where teens watch and stream real-time videos. Users decide whether broadcasters should continue their live videos with thumbs up and thumbs down voting. Anyone can record the videos posted, take screenshots and bully others with the recordings.

