



Cell Phone Safety for Children & Teens - A Guide for Parents

Cellphones can help keep our children safe but they can also make them more vulnerable in certain situations.

Children can use cellphones to call for a ride, let parents know they've arrived safely at their destination, or to call for help in case of an emergency. But smartphones are also tiny computers which give internet access, photo and video technology and GPS tracking, all of which are open to misuse.

15 apps parents should look out for on their kids' phones

Before kids go back to school, police around the country are reminding parents about potentially dangerous apps.

- The first is **'MeetMe'**, an app where teens can easily be in contact with users much older than them, with an emphasis on dating.
- **'WhatsApp'** and **'SnapChat'** are for messaging, but what you should know is teens can send unlimited messages, have video chats and even share their live location with other users, people they may not even know.
- **'Skout'** is a flirting app that's used to meet and chat with new people. Teens and adults are in different groups, but ages aren't verified.
- **'TikTok'** is used for sharing user created videos that can contain bad words, even adult content.
- **'Badoo'** and **'Bumble'** are dating apps for adults, but teens can still find ways to join.
- **'Grindr'** is geared towards the LGBTQ community. It allows users to share photos and meet up based on phone's GPS location.
- **'Kik'** is specifically for kids, but anyone can join and anyone can contact or direct message your child.
- **'LiveMe'** is a live streaming app, but you don't know who's watching and your kids location is revealed.
- **'Holla'** is all about connecting strangers around the world through video chat. Enough said.
- **'Whisper'** is a social confessional where kids can remain anonymous, but still share their feelings. And it can reveal your child's location for a meet up.
- **'ASKfm'** encourages people to allow anonymous users to ask them questions, which opens the door for online bullying.
- **'Hot or Not'** rates users on attractiveness.. There's no age verification and users can send each other messages.
- And lastly, **'Calculator%'** apps are several secret apps that allows kids to hide their photos, videos, even browser history.