20 APPS PARENTS SHOULD KNOW

South Dakota CONSUMER PROTECTION — OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

SNAPCHAT
Snapchat is one of the most popular apps. Promises disappearing photos, videos and stories but doesn't prevent screenshots. Snap Map can let others know your location.

TIKTOK
TikTok is a very popular app. Used for sharing short videos with very limited privacy controls. Users are vulnerable to explicit material.

DISCORD
Discord is a messaging platform for kids to hang out and talk about gaming. Features chat rooms, direct messaging, voice chat and video calls. Can expose kids to inappropriate or explicit content.

ROBLOX
Roblox is an online gaming platform that has a chat function. Underage users have reported solititation from sexual predators.

LIVEME
LiveMe is a live-streaming video app for users to share videos. Uses geolocation so a broadcaster's exact location can be seen by users. Users can earn "coins" to "pay" minors for photos.

OMEGLE
Omegle is an online chat site that does not require registration. Users can chat anonymously via video, private chat, or group chat. Child pornography has been an issue with this site.

CALCULATOR%
Calculator% can hide photos, videos, files, and browser history. Only one of several secret apps used for this purpose.

MEETME
MeetMe is a dating social media app. Allows users to connect with others based on geographic proximity. Users are encouraged to meet in person.

YUBO
Yubo is a popular app amoung teens. Called "Tinder for teens" it is designed to allow teens to flirt with each other. Has been frequented by sexual predators.
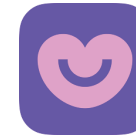
WHATSAPP
WhatsApp is a messaging app where users can send texts, photos, voicemail, make calls, and video chat worldwide. Uses an internet connection and can track location if enabled.

KIK MESSENGER
Kik Messenger allows anyone to contact an direct message a child. Kids can bypass traditional text messaging features. Kik gives users unlimited access to anyone, anywhere, anytime and doesn't track phone numbers of users.

BADOO
Badoo is a dating and social networking app to chat, share photos and videos, and connect based on location. Intended for adults, teens have been known to create profiles.

ASK.FM
ASK.fm is known for cyber bullying. Users are encouraged to allow anonymous people to ask them questions.

SKOUT
Skout is a location-based dating app and website. Users under 17 are unable to share private photos, however kids can easily falsify their age.

YIKYAK
YikYak is an anonymous chatting app that lets users within a five-mile radius read publicly posted messages. Known to be a breeding ground for bullying and promotion of sexual assault and violence.

YARN
Yarn is a reading app that tells stories via fake text messages. Topics can be scary or sexual in nature. Can also watch short videos or listen to audio.

MONKEY
Monkey is a video chatting and social media app that allows kids and teenagers to connect with strangers online. Has a video chat feature and duo chat feature. Actively pushes its users to record themselves live.
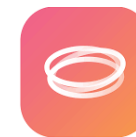
WHISPER
Whisper is an anonymous social network that promotes sharing secrets with strangers. User location is revealed so people can meet up.

BUMBLE
Bumble is a popular dating app similar to Tinder, however women are required to make the first contact. Kids have been known to create fake accounts and falsify their age.

HOOP
Hoop is an app that connects with Snapchat to allow users to "make new connections". Known as "Tinder meets Snapchat" Hoop allows kids as young as 12 to form connections with total strangers. Hoop claims users over 18 won't be shown kids' profiles.

This list is not exhaustive. These and other apps can be used as grooming tools by online predators. (Updated 09/2022)