

16 Apps and Websites Kids Are Heading to After Facebook



TEXTING APPS

GroupMe



GroupMe is another app that doesn't charge fees or have limits for direct and group messages. Users also can send photos, videos, and calendar links.

✓ age 15+ ★★★★★

Kik Messenger



Kik Messenger is an app that lets kids text for free. It's fast and has no message limits, character limits, or fees if you only use the basic features. Because it's an app, the texts won't show up on your kid's phone's messaging service, and you're not charged for them (beyond standard data rates).

✓ age 17+ ★★★★★

WhatsApp



WhatsApp lets users send text messages, audio messages, videos, and photos to one or many people with no message limits or fees.

✓ age 16+ ★★★★★

MICRO-BLOGGING AND PERFORMANCE APPS AND SITES

Instagram



Instagram lets users snap, edit, and share photos and 15-second videos, either publicly or with a private network of followers. It unites the most popular features of social media sites: sharing, seeing, and commenting on photos. It also lets you apply fun filters and effects to your photos, making them look high-quality and artistic.

✓ age 15+ ★★★★★

Musical.ly - Your Video Social Network

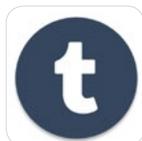


Musical.ly - Your Video Social Network is a performance and video-sharing social network that mostly features teens lip-synching to famous songs but also includes some original

songwriting and singing. Musers, as devoted users are called, can build up a following among friends or share posts publicly.

✓ age 16+ ★★★★★

Tumblr



Tumblr is like a cross between a blog and Twitter: It's a streaming scrapbook of text, photos, and/or videos and audio clips. Users create and follow short blogs, or "tumblogs," that can be seen by anyone online (if made public). Many teens have tumblogs for personal use: sharing photos, videos, musings, and things they find funny with their friends.

✓ age 16+ ★★★★★

Twitter



Twitter is a microblogging tool that allows users to post brief, 140-character messages — called "tweets" — and follow other users' activities. It's not only for adults; teens like using it to share tidbits and keep up with news and celebrities.

✓ age 15+ ★★★★★

LIVE-STREAMING VIDEO APPS

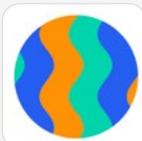
Houseparty - Group Video Chat



Houseparty - Group Video Chat is a way for groups of teens to connect via live video. Two to eight people can be in a chat together at the same time. If someone who's not a direct friend joins a chat, teens get an alert in case they want to leave the chat. You can also "lock" a chat so no one else can join.

✓ age 13+ ★★★★★

Live.ly



Live.ly - Live Video Streaming poses all the same risks that all live-streaming services do, so poor choices, oversharing, and chatting with strangers are a part of the package.

✓ age 17+ ★★★★★

YouNow: Broadcast, Chat, and Watch Live Video



YouNow: Broadcast, Chat, and Watch Live Video is an app that lets kids stream and watch live broadcasts. As they watch, they can comment or buy gold bars to give to other users. Ultimately, the goal is to get lots of viewers, start trending, and grow your fan base. Note that there are other apps like this that are less popular with teens, such as Periscope, but Facebook has just included live-streaming as a feature, so expect to see more and more personal broadcasting.

✓ age 17+



SELF-DESTRUCTING/SECRET APPS

Snapchat



Snapchat is a messaging app that lets users put a time limit on the pictures and videos they send before they disappear. Most teens use the app to share goofy or embarrassing photos without the risk of them going public. However, there are lots of opportunities to use it in other ways.

✓ age 16+



Whisper



Whisper is a social "confessional" app that allows users to post whatever's on their minds, paired with an image. With all the emotions running through teens, anonymous outlets give them the freedom to share their feelings without fear of judgment.

✓ age 18+



Yik Yak



Yik Yak is a free social-networking app that lets users post brief, Twitter-like comments to the 500 geographically nearest Yik Yak users. Kids can find out opinions, secrets, rumors, and more. Plus, they'll get the bonus thrill of knowing all these have come from within a 1.5-mile radius (maybe even from the kids at the desks in front of them!).

✓ age 18+



CHATTING, MEETING, DATING APPS AND SITES

MeetMe: Chat and Meet New People



MeetMe: Chat and Meet New People — the name says it all. Although not marketed as a dating app, MeetMe does have a "Match" feature whereby users can "secretly admire" others, and its large user base means fast-paced communication and guaranteed attention.

✓ age 18+



Omegle

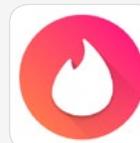


Omegle is a chat site that puts two strangers together in their choice of a text chat or a video chat room. Being anonymous can be very attractive to teens, and Omegle provides a no-fuss opportunity to make connections. Its "interest boxes" also let users filter potential chat partners by shared interests.

✓ age 18+



Tinder



Tinder is a photo and messaging dating app for browsing pictures of potential matches within a certain-mile radius of the user's location. It's very popular with 20-somethings as a way to meet new people for casual or long-term relationships.

✓ age 18+



The bottom line for most of these tools? If teens are using them respectfully, appropriately, and with a little parental guidance, they should be fine. Take inventory of your kids' apps and review the best practices.

TV senior editor Polly Conway and former Common Sense Education writer Kelly Schryver contributed to this article.