

POPULAR PLATFORMS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT



13+

TikTok is where users create, share, and discover short videos. The app features a "For You" feed, which uses an algorithm to suggest content. It also supports live streaming and direct messaging. While TikTok has content moderation policies, users can easily encounter dangerous viral challenges, inappropriate videos, including violence, profanity, sexual content, or drug use. Its direct message function allows strangers to make contact even with private accounts.



18+

Kick is a live streaming platform similar to Twitch and YouTube Live, allowing users to broadcast themselves playing games or chatting. However, it's advised for users 18 and older due to controversies around gambling promotions and mature content. Kick offers a favourable revenue sharing model for streamers but has faced criticism for facilitating gambling-related sponsorships. Users will experience exposure to mature content and gambling activities.



13+

Snapchat is a messaging app known for disappearing photos and videos. It allows users to send disappearing messages, connect with strangers and share their location. Snapchat's features attract online predators, making it easier for them to groom children without leaving an obvious digital trail. Features like private Snaps, video calls, and the ability to delete chat history further obscure conversations, posing a risk to younger users.



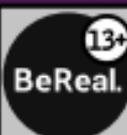
13+

TOR, which stands for "The Onion Router," is a free software/app that enables anonymous communication on the internet. While Tor itself is a tool designed to enhance online privacy and security, it is important to be aware of the potential risks and dangers associated with the dark web, which is accessible through Tor or other similar networks. Tor aims to provide protection for ordinary people who want to follow the law but be able to access the dark web.



18+

MeetMe includes video chatting, messaging and streaming. There are 100+ million users on this platform. On MeetMe you can video chat with people nearby and all around the world. MeetMe says you can "Strike up a text or video chat with someone local who shares your interests. Or you can broadcast yourself out to the world and have the people come to you by streaming on Live." Many reports of inappropriate content such as sex, violence & self-harm.



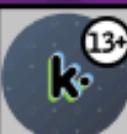
13+

BeReal is positive in that it encourages users to share their "real-self", rather than their "best-self" online. This supports users with their body image and self-esteem. However, it is important to recognise that this app encourages users to share lots of personal information. Therefore discuss the risks of oversharing online. It is important to discuss "friends", including "friends of friends" when children and young people are considering who to add to their friend's lists.



13+

Steam is a leading entertainment platform where users can play, discover, and even create games. The built-in chat function allows gamers to connect and collaborate in real-time. While some games may contain mature content, Steam provides parental controls to help manage access. Live content and community interactions can be dynamic and unpredictable. Ads and game-related promotions may appear so privacy settings are a must!



13+

Kik is an anonymous messaging app. It lets you create your own username and message others without using your mobile number. Users can choose to live stream, chat one-to-one or in group chats. As well as send photos and videos to other users. The "Meet New People" feature lets you start a conversation with random users. You will also see in-app ads promoting online dating. We recommend you keep children as far away from this app as possible.



18+

Wink allows users to explore dates, hookups, friendships, FWB (friends with benefits), and chats on Wink—but be cautious. Wink is designed for adults seeking various relationships, including casual encounters. It's important to note that this app is not suitable for children due to its adult-oriented content and potential risks associated with meeting strangers online. Parents and caregivers should ensure that minors are not using platforms like Wink.



13+

Twitch is live video game website. You can watch playbacks of games being played by other people. You can also live stream your own games, watch Esports and chat to other gamers. Young people using Twitch may be exposed to language or behaviour that parents may deem inappropriate. Many of the games watched have violent content, and anything live is always risky. Gamer chat means users can chat to other gamers live.



18+

MeetMe promotes interaction with strangers, a significant risk for teens who may not have the maturity or judgment to safely navigate these connections who might be predators or scammers. Anonymous interactions can lead to offensive or inappropriate messages. In MeetMe Live users broadcast themselves and interact with others in real time. MeetMe uses location-based matching, connecting people based on proximity in a Tinder-like swipe feature.



13+

Discord is a voice and text chat app designed for gamers but used by many communities. It supports cross-platform communication via direct messages (DMs) and servers. While Discord enforces community guidelines and content filters, risks remain, including grooming, hate speech, harassment, exploitative content, doxing, and extremist material. Users, especially in unmoderated servers, may encounter explicit or inappropriate content.



16+

Telegram is designed around secrecy and encryption, allowing users to send messages, photos, videos, and documents securely to contacts. All communications, including voice calls, are end-to-end encrypted. Children are now using Telegram to buy drugs like ketamine, receiving them directly at their front doors. This trend highlights serious concerns about underage access to illicit substances facilitated by such platforms.



13+

Reddit is a community-based platform where users submit posts on a wide array of topics, fostering discussions through comments. While much of Reddit's content is suitable for all ages, there exists a significant amount of explicit and potentially inappropriate material. In recent times, Reddit has faced scrutiny over its association with extremist content, such as incel culture, and various forms of exploitation.



18+

Monkey is a social media platform designed for users to connect and have fun through video chat. The app allows users to engage in live video conversations with strangers or friends, focusing on social interaction. Users can however encounter adult content without warning and connect with strangers. The app offers little control over who users connect with, increasing the risk of harassment and exploitation.



13+

Bluesky is the latest micro-blogging social media platform to get a real buzz. It has functionally similar to X. Bluesky operates as a decentralised social media platform which gives inconsistent or minimal moderation, increasing the chance of harmful or offensive content remaining visible. Without strict controls, users may come across violent, graphic, or explicit material. Strangers can reach out and initiate messaging.



13+

Wizz is a social networking app that allows users to swipe and chat with real people online, similar to dating apps. This includes people near you & around the world. Users are grouped by age. However, adults have still been found amongst children's profiles. Friends can be selected based on their location, age, gender and interests. This platform encourages users to overshare their personal information to connect with new people and make new 'friends'.



ChatGPT is an AI language model that engages in conversations and provides human-like text responses. While there is no specific age requirement to use it, parental guidance is recommended, especially for children accessing online platforms. ChatGPT can assist with answering questions, explaining concepts, and facilitating learning, but users should treat its responses with caution due to the potential for inaccuracies or incomplete information.

Take time to check it out for yourself. Always promote yourself as a source of support, and someone to talk to if a child or young person has any concerns.

Keep up to date by visiting www.kidsonlineworld.com