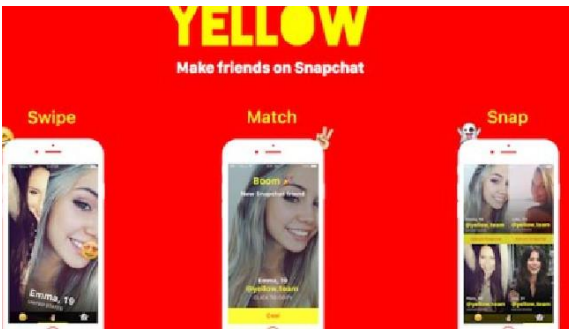




3 apps parents should know about

1. Yellow



Content

Yellow is often referred to as the 'Tinder for teens'. Young people can make new friends using their Instagram and Snapchat accounts. They can upload a profile picture and up to 5 more photos and choose to connect with boys, girls or both sexes. Users can write a bit about themselves and use emojis.

How old?

Children need to be at least 13 years of age to sign up for the app and need parental permission. 13-17 year olds should only be able to connect with people in that age category. However, it is worth noting that you can connect to the app using an incorrect date of birth. There is an 18+ version of this app too.

Contact

The nature of the app means they will be connecting with other teens that they haven't met, living within their area. They can look through a series of profiles and swipe left or right to either like or dislike another person's profile. Once 2 people have both liked each other's profiles and become a match, they are given access to each other's Snapchat and Instagram accounts.

Things to be aware of

As the app has been linked to sexting incidents amongst teens; it would be advisable to talk to your child about what it is and isn't appropriate to share. Also, much like Tinder, the app only works if the location is enabled so you need to share your location if you want to sign up. Users can report other people quite easily on the app by clicking the flag icon in the top left-hand corner of the profile that they want to report. They will then be asked to select from a drop-down list of reasons for the report.



3 apps parents should know about

2. Monkey



Content

Monkey is a chat app where people are randomly connected with other Snapchat users from around the world within their age range and have an initial 10-second video chat. If someone wants to continue the conversation then they can tap the 'time' button to keep chatting. If both people in the conversation tap 'time' then the call will continue. After the conversation, they can add each other to Snapchat.

How old?

This app is rated as 13+ but there is no age verification required.

Contact

Young people will make video contact with strangers and be able to communicate with them for 10 seconds or longer depending on whether there is a mutual decision to carry on chatting (by tapping 'time'). If they continue to chat then they will be able to add each other to Snapchat or Instagram.

Things to be aware of

10 seconds is not a long time to get to know someone so it has been suggested that this app is more suitable for older teens. The speed of response could cause users to give away more information than they would choose to if they had the chance to think about it.

Young people need to be aware that the person they are communicating with is a stranger so they shouldn't disclose too much personal information – and with no robust age verification in place, users could enter any age they want, pretending to be younger than they are.

Monkey has recently come under fire as there have been incidents of adults trying to communicate with teens and indecent images being shared. Monkey does state a zero-tolerance policy for misuse of the app and say they have moderators 24/7. Click on the below link for safety instructions if you want to report any safeguarding issues from the app.

<https://monkey.cool/safety>



3 apps parents should know about

3. Musical.ly



musical.ly

Tip

The best way to get an idea of what your teenager could be getting up to on these apps is to download them yourself, have a browse and see what you find. You can always delete the app again afterwards.

Content

Young people can record their own songs or video themselves miming along to music. They can edit the videos by speeding up or slowing them down. The videos can then be posted to their followers and shared elsewhere, for example on Facebook, Vine or WhatsApp.

How old?

The terms and conditions of the app don't clearly state any age limit. It is worth considering that there is the possibility of swearing and scantily clad teens in some videos. However, younger teens are using it.

Contact

Many young people enjoy using this app to express their own creativity to other music lovers, watch videos from other users and connect with their friends. Young people can create an account by using an email address or through their Facebook or Twitter account. The videos are open to comments and young people can follow each other, like and comment on videos. They can add hashtags when posting videos and search for trending hashtags too.

Things to be aware of

Users can block other users if they receive any nasty comments. They just need to select the icon with three dots on the right-hand corner of the profile page of the user they want to block and select 'block this user'. They can also report any abuse selecting the appropriate option from the 3 dot dropdown menu