

Internet & App Awareness

Enabling Device Restriction

Oftentimes our children stumble onto inappropriate subjects online through innocent searches. By enabling restrictions on their device, you are helping to eliminate the “accidental” discovery of certain topics.

The following links will walk you step by step on how to enable restrictions on some of the most commonly used devices and websites.

IPhone: <https://www.kidguard.com/cell-phone-monitoring-and-gps-tracking/enable-parental-controls-iphone/>

Android: <https://www.kidguard.com/cell-phone-monitoring-and-gps-tracking/enable-parental-controls-android/>

You Tube: www.kidguard.com/cell-phone-monitoring-and-gps-tracking/how-to-setup-parental-controls-on-youtube-on-browser-iphone-and-android/

Get Control of your Child’s Device

Anchor/Reporter Sofia Ojeda from Ch 2 KPRC spoke to experts on how to keep our kid safe when navigating through the internet. Rania Mankarious of Crime Stoppers of Houston said “Privacy is not an issue when it comes to youth and the online world. As parents we’ve got to dive in and see what they are looking at, where they’re spending their time”.

There is an easy way to view your child browser history even if they try to delete it.

- **Go to SETTINGS**  **BATTERY USAGE**

This will show where your child has been and how much time they spent there.
IT CANNOT BE DELETED.

Mankarious goes on to say “And Google! Do simple Google terms, ask for notifications of articles that talk about hoaxes, suicidal threats, online challenges Google will notify you when articles like these pop up.” Dr. Alton Bozeman, psychologist at the Menninger Clinic in Houston discussed the importance of having open communication with your child. If they are worried about something, ask them...

- Why are you scared?
- What are you scared about?
- What questions do you have?
- Explain it to your child using a **Neutral Tone**.

Bozeman explained how limiting screen time as well as encouraging kids to earn screen time are also useful tools.

(Ojeda, S., KPRC Click2Houston. 2019, March 11. [Graphic videos on YouTube Kids rising concern from parents.](#))

High-Risk Apps to Watch Out For



Snapchat: This is a popular app among teenagers, with reports that almost half of teens that have online access also have a snapchat account.



Poke: This app run by Facebook is another one to keep your eye out for, as it has features closely resembling Snapchat.

Dangers:

- Pictures, videos and messages delete themselves within a few seconds of the recipient viewing them.. Providing a heightened sense of privacy to users, encouraging them to participate in more risque behavior...i.e. sexting, sending suggestive pictures or nude photos. However, technology easily allows others to capture screen shots, meaning that using the app isn't as 'private' as most people would think.

(Elgersma, C. (2019, January 11). Apps to Watch Out for in 2019. Retrieved from www.common sense media.org)



Roblox: This is a game-creation site where users design and upload their own games, as well as play other games in a mult-multiplayer environment. Some of the gameplay is advanced, and many games include weapons. Common Sense Media rates it OK for users age 10+. They urge parents to enable privacy settings and show kids how to report bad behavior and block users.

Dangers:

- Some of the gameplay include games with weapons, inappropriate/predatory messages and sexual comments with young players.
- Tons of games with topless Lego characters used to pull children into pornographic "worlds"
- Full pornographic roll play worlds

(Knorr, C. 2018, June 26. Parents' Ultimate Guide to Roblox. Retrieved from www.common sense media.org)



Kik: An app based alternative to stand texting, as well as social networking app.

Dangers:

- Online predators hang out on Kik, disguising themselves as teens and try to lure kids into sending inappropriate content. It has been reported by many parents that their teens received unsolicited sexual messages within hours of installing the app.

(Elgersma, C. (2019, January 11). Apps to Watch Out for in 2019. Retrieved from www.common sense media.org)



ASKfm: This app could potentially have legitimate uses for kids, as it is meant to help others find out more about their friends in a question and answer format. The app allows users to ask questions anonymously.



Yik Yak: anonymous apps to watch for as well

Dangers:

- Some kids have used the app for hurtful cyberbullying that has been linked to suicides, including the death of 12 year-old Rebecca Sedwick of Florida.
- Again, not all bad comes from this app, so use your best judgement. At the very least have a conversation about it.

(Elgersma, C. (2019, January 11). [Apps to Watch Out for in 2019](http://www.common sense media.org). Retrieved from www.common sense media.org)



BIGO LIVE – Live Stream: This app is similar to Twitch and YouTube, BIGO LIVE lets teens stream live video of themselves that other users can see and comment on in real time. You can receive “Beans” which are virtual gifts that cost real money. (Elgersma, C. (2019, January 11). [Apps to Watch Out for in 2019](http://www.common sense media.org). Retrieved from www.common sense media.org)

Danger:

- This app has a lot of mature content, and user's comments are often predatory and explicit. It focus on status and spending money.

(Elgersma, C. (2019, January 11). [Apps to Watch Out for in 2019](http://www.common sense media.org). Retrieved from www.common sense media.org)

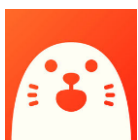


BitLife: This app is a simulation game that you are assigned an identity to play through the entire game from infancy to death.

Danger:

- Kids don't engage in actual risky behavior, but BitLife exposes them to mature ideas. As your character gets older, your character can “hook up” with pretend profiles, drink, do drugs, gamble, and commit crimes. It does also allow the character to choose healthy choices which as going to them gym and meditating.

(Elgersma, C. (2019, January 11). [Apps to Watch Out for in 2019](http://www.common sense media.org). Retrieved from www.common sense media.org)



HOLLA: Live Random Video Chat: This app is all about connecting with strangers. You can sign up with either your phone number or Facebook account. You are instantly matched with strangers and both you and the others appear on camera. You can also enable location tracking to be paired with someone nearby.

Danger:

- This app states that it bans iffy content, but users' reviews indicate that adult content, fake identities and negative content are common.

(Elgersma, C. (2019, January 11). [Apps to Watch Out for in 2019](http://www.common sense media.org). Retrieved from www.common sense media.org)



IMVU: 3D Avatar Creator & Chat: This app is also available on the web, where users interact through elaborate 3D avatars.

Danger:

- Virtual sex and user privacy are the main issues for teens in IMVU. Avatars stereotypical body types and skimpy outfits are a focus. The app allows you to search the term "IMVU sex" results give advice about how to have (virtual avatar) sex and where to find it.

(Elgersma, C. (2019, January 11). [Apps to Watch Out for in 2019](http://www.common sense media.org). Retrieved from www.common sense media.org)



Like- Magic Music Video Editor: Similar to the app Tik Tok, that allows you to create short lip-synching videos.

Danger:

- Also like Tik Tok, Like features mature music, dancing and strangers to interact.

(Elgersma, C. (2019, January 11). [Apps to Watch Out for in 2019](http://www.common sense media.org). Retrieved from www.common sense media.org)

Vaulting Apps

Vaulting apps are designed to hide information from prying eyes. They allow users to hide photos, documents; open private browser as well as passcode protect all their material. Some popular vaulting apps to look for are:



Secret Calculator Photo Album disguised as a calculator- hides files, photos, etc



Vault - Hide SMS information



Hide It - Pro hide pictures, videos, documents, etc...

Keeping Your Child Safe

When in doubt about an app or website check with the experts. Here are a few helpful websites that make it their business to research apps and websites.

- **Common Sense Media:** www.commonsensemedia.org
- **Family Education: Parenting Advice, Activities for Children & Games for...:**
- **Parents Know More:**

Communication is Key

Parents, guardians, teachers etc. cannot be everywhere all the time. Therefore, we need to educate our children on the importance of internet safety. Keep an open line of communication seems to be key in helping to prevent risky online behavior by children.

Research by Cox Communications Inc., in partnership with the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) recently reported the following.

- 41% of teens report their parents talk to them “a lot” about Internet safety (up five points since 2006), which is good considering...
- 65% of teens surveyed who stated their parents have not talked to them about online safety post info about where they live, compared to 48% of teens with more involved parents.
- Teens with more involved parents are less likely to arrange a face-to-face meeting with a stranger than teens with less involved parents (12% vs 20%).