Navigating the Digital World
Apps and Sites to Keep on Your Online Safety Radar

Texting/Messaging Apps

KiK – Exchange photos, videos, sketches; "KiK buddy" = "sext buddy;" kids placing classified ads for sex with KiK username.

WhatsApp – Exchange text, audio, photo, and video messages; location can be shared with other users.

Photo/Video Sharing Apps

Line – Hub for chatting, sharing photos and videos, texting, video calling; lots of in-app purchases available.

Reddit – Allows kids to easily access inappropriate material including porn; no age verification required.

Instagram – Share photos and videos publicly and privately; teens may measure self-worth by number of "likes."

Live-Streaming Video Apps

Houseparty – Allows users to connect via live group video; screenshots can be taken; no moderator; explicit.

Live.me – Users watch others broadcast themselves live; no control over who views user's stream.

YouNow – Users stream, watch, and comment on live broadcasts; goal is to get views, start trending, grow fan base.
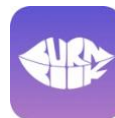
Self-Destructing/Secret Apps

Snapchat – Messages and photos "disappear" within seconds; images regularly posted to revenge porn sites.

Whisper – Users post anonymous sexual, dark, or otherwise inappropriate "confessions"; meet up with other users.

Calculator% - Looks like a calculator but is a secret photo vault often used to store inappropriate content.

Burn Book – Users post anonymous rumors about others via text, audio, and photo messages; cyberbullying.

Audio Manager/Hide It – Used to hide content such as messages, photos, videos, and other apps.

Vaulty – Stores photos/videos and snaps a photo of anyone who tries to access the vault without password.

Burn Note – Erases messages after period of time promoting sense of secrecy; encourages cyberbullying.

Chatting, Meeting, Dating Apps

Omegle – Promotes chatting with random strangers and sharing explicit content and personal information.

Yubo (Yellow) – "Tinder for kids" allowing them to meet and hook-up with total strangers face-to-face.

Hot or Not – Users (strangers) rate each other's profile with the goal of hooking up.

Tinder – Used for hooking-up and dating by rating profiles, locating via GPS tracking; used for cyberbullying.

Blendr – Used to meet new people via GPS location, rating "hotness" of other users, sexting photos/videos.

Other Dangerous Apps

Ask.fm – Q&A site where users ask questions anonymously; kids target other kids; cyberbullying.

Yik Yak – Users anonymously post messages filled with explicit content, personal attacks, threats, rumors, etc.

Sarahah – Allows users to send anonymous messages to friends; has been called #1 cyberbullying app.

Vora – Fasting app used by teens with eating disorders; "pro-ana" forums celebrate and promote anorexia.

Wishbone – Allows users to compare other users against each other and rate them on a scale.

Keep in mind:
- ✓ App Icons and Logos often change and may be different on different operating systems.
- ✓ Search for "Secret" or "Hidden" Apps by going to the App Store (i.e., for iPhone) on your child's phone and using the search tool to look for key words such as "hidden, private photos, photo vault, or secret."
    - o If your child has any of these apps on the phone, an "open" icon will appear next to the app;
    - o If your child does not have these apps, a "get" icon will appear next to the app;
    - o If your child used to have the app but deleted it, a cloud icon will appear next to the app.
- ✓ This is by no means an exhaustive list. Apps are constantly being updated and new apps are constantly being developed.

Tips for Keeping Your Child/Teen Safe Online

Educate and Empower Yourself
- Our kids are sometimes "smarter" than we are!
- The Internet can be a powerful tool for parents, here are some helpful resources:

"Independent non-profit organization dedicated to helping kids thrive in a world of media and technology."
www.commonsensemedia.org

"To make the most of the internet, kids need to be prepared to make smart decisions. Be Internet Awesome teaches kids the fundamentals of digital citizenship and safety so they can explore the online world with confidence."
https://beinternetawesome.withgoogle.com

"International, non-profit organization which works to make the online world safer for kids and their families. FOSI's Good Digital Parenting provides parents with videos, tip sheets, resources, blogs, and more to help them keep their kids safe."
www.fosi.org/good-digital-parenting/

"Non-profit organization dedicated to educating users of connected technology about safety, privacy, and security."
www.connectsafely.org

Open Family Communication
- Consider a Family Pledge or Contract (one is available on Be Internet Awesome site)
- The key is not necessarily control but dialogue, awareness, education, communication

Parental Control Settings for Smartphones/Internet Use
- Enable Parental Restrictions
- Be aware of Privacy and Location Services Settings
- Be aware of multiple user or fake accounts (i.e., on Instagram = "Finsta")
- Parental Control Software and Apps
- Consider time-limits and allowances on usage
- *see online resources listed above for instructions, guides, software, etc.