

Parent Information for Website/Apps

1. *Instagram: An online photo-sharing, video-sharing and social networking service that enables users to take pictures and videos, apply digital filters to them, and share them on a variety of sites. **Potential Risks:** Teens often post inappropriate photos.*
2. *Snapchat: A photo messaging app allowing users to take photos, record videos, add text and drawings, and send them to a controlled list of recipients. Users set a time limit for how long recipients can view their Snaps (ranging from 1 to 10 seconds), after which they will be hidden from the recipient's device and deleted from the Snapchat server. **Potential Risks:** While the photo message disappears from the phone after a few seconds, it does not prevent the receiver from snapping a screenshot of the photo while it is live. If a receiver takes a screenshot of the photo, the sender is notified, but photo could still be shared later with others. In addition, if a receiver knows that a message is coming, he or she could take a photo of the screen with another phone or digital camera and the sender would never know that their supposedly "evaporating" photo is on someone else's device. SnapChat can be a temptation for teens to use it for sexting because the risks of having the photo shared are lower. But as indicated above, the risk still exists.*
3. *Kik Messenger/WhatsApp: Instant messaging applications for mobile devices, available at no cost. Both applications use a smartphone's data plan or Wi-Fi to transmit and receive messages, a feature that appeals to individuals looking to avoid text messaging rates. Kik also allows users to share photos, sketches, voice messages, and other content. **Potential Risks:** There are no records to review and chats are easily deleted. Teens may also use the apps for sexting.*
4. *Ask.fm: A social networking website where users can ask other users questions, with the option of anonymity. **Potential Risks:** The site has been involved in several cases in which cyberbullying on it has led to suicide. Freed by anonymity, users can type terrible, hurtful things. The site has no workable reporting, tracking or parental control processes.*
5. *Omegle: A free online chat web site allowing users to communicate with strangers without registering. The service randomly pairs users in one-on-one chat sessions where they chat "anonymously" using the handles "You" and "Stranger". **Potential Risks:** Chatting with strangers can invite in risks for sexual predators.*
6. *Chatroulette: An online chat website that pairs random people from around the world together for webcam-based conversations. Visitors to the website begin an online chat (text, audio, and video) with another visitor. At any point, either user may leave the current chat by initiating another random connection. **Potential Risks:** Unlike most sites containing adult content, no credit card is required and anyone can log on. Studies have shown that most users are 18-24 and 5% to 8% of users were either naked or had the camera focused on their genitals.*
7. *Vine: A mobile app enabling its users to create and post short video clips. Clips can be shared or embedded on social networking services such as Twitter. **Potential Risks:** Although closely monitored on Twitter, clips can still potentially contain inappropriate content.*
8. *Tumblr: A "short-form" blog that allows for quick updates and photo sharing, and allows users to easily follow each other or discover other content that may be of interest. **Potential Risks:** Content may be inappropriate.*
9. *Spring.me (formerly known as Formspring): An interest-based social Q&A website created to allow users to relate their ideas and opinions on any topic. Formspring account, depending upon the asker's preference. **Potential Risks:** Site perpetuates cyber bullying. Teens gather to leave crude and hurtful online comments about one another.*
10. *mylol.net: A destination for "teen dating" and allows teens as young as 13 to register. **Potential Risks:** The site contains thousands of adult users and predators. Teens on the site divulge their personal contact information and often post inappropriate photos.*

11. *hotornot.com: Allows users to rate the attractiveness of others in photos, meet the people in the photos of which they are rating and "hook up" with others in the same geographic region. **Potential Risks:** The people in the photos that teens are rating could likely not be who they say they are.*
12. *Reddit: A social news and entertainment website where registered users submit content in the form of either a link or a post. Other users then vote the submission "up" or "down", which is used to rank the post and determine its position on the site's pages and front page. Content entries are organized by areas of interest called "subreddits". **Potential Risks:** Content may be inappropriate.*
13. *TinyChat: Chats are a combination of instant messenger, voice and video. There are thousands of chat rooms on the site and users can access them either via the web or smartphone apps. 12 video feeds and dozens of audio feeds can be set going at once. **Potential Risks:** Where there's video, there is often people with ulterior motives.*
14. *Pheed: Pheed lets users share text, photos, videos and audio. **Potential Risks:** Risk of trolls and users pretending to be someone they are not.*
15. *Tinder: Users are then encouraged to like the picture or dismiss it. It remains relatively anonymous until two people heart each other. When a match is created they can message each other. **Potential Risks:** Doesn't do a good job of preventing younger teenagers from joining. You can see a match's location.*

OTHERS:

- *Whisper: It allows users to share "anonymous" secrets in the form of virtual postcards. Potential Risks: the risk of abusive content about users being posted to upset and intimidate them.*
- *Poof: The Poof App allows users to make Apps disappear on their phone with one touch. Poof is it is no longer available, but if it was downloaded before it was deleted from the App store, your child may still have it.*