

CYBER SAFE KENTUCKY

Children can unknowingly give away personal information through social media apps. It is important to be vigilant and talk to them about their online presence and what information should not be shared publicly.



KIK

Kik allows user to contact or directly message other users with pictures, videos, games, and more. Its most notable feature is its chat which allows up to 50 users and is self-moderated.

- Because there are no parental control settings, there is no way to prevent a stranger from directly messaging your child.
- Kik includes an in-app browser that can be used to visit malicious or dangerous sites.
- Kik is operable on phones, computers, tablets, and other devices with an internet connection.



SNAPCHAT

Snapchat is designed to share a 'snap' (photo or video) with friends, but the app allows strangers to message you and send you 'snaps.'

- If a person screenshots a snap, the app will notify the user. However, people have found workarounds to this, so you should discuss with your child what images should not be posted or shared.
- Adjust privacy settings from 'Everyone' to 'My Friends' to control who can see videos and photos your child posts.
- GPS capabilities allows users to see others' exact locations. By changing your account to 'Ghost Mode,' your location will not be visible to anyone else.
- The minimum age for an account is 13, but the birthdate that users enter is not verified by the app.
- Turn off the 'Quick Add' feature in Settings. Otherwise, your child's snaps will be available to strangers.



INSTAGRAM

Instagram is used for posting pictures, videos, instant messaging, and discovering content from celebrities, friends, and strangers.

- If an account is not private, any image or video shared is visible to anyone. You can adjust the privacy settings to manage who follows you and who can see your posts.
- You have to actively restrict direct messages from individuals you or your child does not know. You can 'block' the sender in order to stop the account from messaging your child again or you can turn of direct messaging altogether.
- Consider creating your own Instagram account to follow your child and their friends, and do spot checks on their activity from their device.



MESSANGER

Messenger is a chat-based app that allows individuals to share personal information, photos, videos, and audio. It can be used for group chatting.

- Messenger allows users to send their location to other users. This can be turned off by visiting phone settings and disabling the access to 'my location' option.
- You can adjust the privacy settings to manage who can see your posts and info.
- The minimum age for an account is 13, but the birthdate that users enter is not verified by the app.

