



# SOCIAL MEDIA SAFETY

What you need to know about social media applications

[www.loavesfishescomputers.org](http://www.loavesfishescomputers.org)



## WHAT ARE SOCIAL MEDIA APPS?

Social Media apps are platforms or websites where people can create, upload and share content and connect and communicate with others around the world. The content shared through these platforms are usually videos, pictures, and messages.



## WHY TALK ABOUT SOCIAL MEDIA?

According to Global Social Media Stats, there are 4.48 billion active social media users. This gives us a peek at what percentage of the world population has access to the internet. As you can imagine, a big part of that percentage are teens and children. With so many people using social media, it is almost impossible to track malicious activity for every user, making it an attractive place for malicious actors.



## CHILDREN AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Children, and especially teenagers, are active social media users too, and they are the most vulnerable and easy targets for online threats such as:

- Inappropriate content
- Cyber Predators and Chat Room 'friends'
- Cyberbullying
- Online Scams



## WHAT ARE THE MOST COMMON APPS USED?

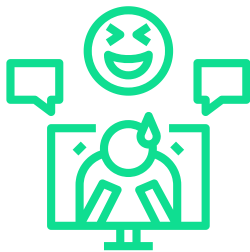
There are hundreds of social media and game apps available for free, but these are some of the most popular apps:

### *Social Media Apps:*

- TikTok
- Instagram
- Snapchat
- Whatsapp
- Facebook
- Twitter

### *Gaming Apps*

- Roblox
- Fortnite
- Minecraft
- Twitch
- Pathfinder
- Discord



## CYBERBULLYING

Cyberbullying is bullying that takes place over digital mediums like cell phones, computers, and tablets. Cyberbullying can occur through SMS, Text, and apps, or online on social media, forums, or gaming, where people can view, participate in, or share content. It can include sending, posting, or sharing negative, harmful, false, or mean content about someone else. Cyberbullying may be sharing personal or private information about someone else, causing embarrassment or humiliation. Some cyberbullying crosses the line into unlawful or criminal.

# SOCIAL MEDIA SAFETY

*What you need to know about social media applications*

[www.loavesfishescomputers.org](http://www.loavesfishescomputers.org)

## HOW TO KEEP CHILDREN AND TEENS SAFE

1. Keep the computer in a common area of your home — like your living room or kitchen. Have designated areas to use tablets and cell phones. This can help you monitor what sites your child is visiting. Plus, they may be less tempted to visit sites or perform activities they're not allowed to if you're nearby.
2. Only allow your child to access the internet for a limited time each day. Homework might be an exception. Social media sites can be a time suck, and you don't want your child spending all of their free time online.
3. If your child is an older teen, they may think giving you full access to their account is too invasive. Consider a compromise. Require them to add you as a friend so you can monitor their activities via your own account.
4. If your child wants to join a social media site, request that you have access to their account credentials. This can help you check for undesirable activities, such as adding suspicious friends, receiving questionable messages, or posting unkind content.
5. Stick with age-appropriate sites. Most social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram have an age minimum of 13 years. Some of these sites have additional security settings for minors, as well. Facebook, for example, automatically imposes stricter privacy settings for kids than for adults, so be sure your child is using the correct birth year upon signup.
6. Always review the privacy settings on your child's profile.

## MORE TIPS FOR PARENTS:

1. Monitor online activity constantly
2. Prevent cyberbullying by talking to your children about being respectful online to others.
3. Promote appropriate online interactions
4. Don't give out your credit card on free games
5. Don't save credit card information online on any platform.
6. Be aware of the following:
  - Who their online friends are
  - Who they chat with
  - The apps they use most and become familiar with them
  - What content they watch, and what content are they "liking"
  - What type of comments and content are they sharing



Resources and more information can be found at  
<https://www.common sense media.org/articles/social-media>

