

# Popular apps and games to be aware of

APP/GAME	WHAT IS IT?	LISTEN OUT FOR CHILDREN TALKING ABOUT:
<b>TikTok</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Users share short videos of themselves, often lip-syncing to music, and watch other people's videos</li> <li>• You can gain 'fans' and follow other people</li> <li>• There are often 'challenges' that spread among users</li> <li>• The app uses algorithms to feed users more related content, which can push them towards niche or unsettling videos</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Videos that sound inappropriate</li> <li>• 'Challenges' that are potentially dangerous</li> <li>• Strangers they've made contact with through TikTok</li> <li>• Content about eating disorders, self-harm and bullying</li> <li>• Things they heard or saw on TikTok that don't sound true, or might be fake news</li> </ul>
<b>Snapchat</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Picture, video and message-sharing with contacts</li> <li>• 'Snaps' disappear and aren't saved on phones</li> <li>• Known for sharing nude and semi-nude images</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharing explicit images and requests for photos</li> <li>• Screenshots of 'Snaps' being shared</li> <li>• Strangers they've made contact with</li> <li>• Videos and photos that sound inappropriate</li> </ul>
<b>YouTube</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A website and app where users can watch videos uploaded by other people</li> <li>• Users can also watch live streams of other people</li> <li>• Users can upload their own videos and leave comments on other people's videos</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uploading videos of things that happen at school</li> <li>• 'Challenges' that are potentially dangerous</li> <li>• Videos that sound inappropriate</li> <li>• Other pupils' videos that they've found, and making fun of the person who made the video</li> </ul>

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<b>Instagram</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Users upload photos and videos to their profile, and can live stream to other users</li> <li>• You can gain followers and follow other people, as well as comment on other people's photos and videos</li> <li>• Users can private message each other, send each other private photos and videos, and upload to a daily 'story' that other users can see for 24 hours</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharing explicit images and requests for photos</li> <li>• Screenshots of private messages or photos being shared</li> <li>• Pictures or videos that sound inappropriate</li> </ul>
<b>Twitch</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A website and app where users can watch videos and live streams of other users, typically playing computer games</li> <li>• They can also live stream themselves and private message each other</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strangers they've made contact with</li> <li>• Inappropriate content they've seen</li> </ul>
<b>Kick</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Like Twitch, a website where users can watch videos and live streams of other users</li> <li>• Computer gaming streams are popular, as well as gambling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strangers they've made contact with</li> <li>• Gambling</li> <li>• Inappropriate content they've seen</li> </ul>
<b>WhatsApp</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A messaging app where users can message each other by text, video and voice notes</li> <li>• Users can also video and voice chat with each other</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strangers they've made contact with</li> <li>• Pictures or videos that sound inappropriate</li> <li>• Screenshots of private messages or photos being shared</li> </ul>
<b>Discord</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A messaging platform where users can message, video and voice call each other, and join servers to talk to lots of other people</li> <li>• Originally used for communication while playing computer games</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strangers they've made contact with</li> <li>• Pictures or videos that sound inappropriate</li> <li>• Ideas or beliefs that sound extreme</li> </ul>

APP/GAME	WHAT IS IT?	LISTEN OUT FOR CHILDREN TALKING ABOUT:
<b>Minecraft</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A game where players explore online worlds. They can use 'blocks' to customise the world and create new parts</li> <li>• Players buy 'Minecoins' with real money, and then exchange them for in-game extras such as outfits for their character or new worlds to explore</li> <li>• Players can communicate in multiplayer worlds using text chat</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Griefing', where someone intentionally ruins the game for other users</li> <li>• Contact with strangers</li> <li>• Spending lots of 'Minecoins', which means spending lots of real money</li> </ul>
<b>Roblox</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An online game creating system where you can create and publish games and activities, and play in other users' games</li> <li>• Players can buy 'Robux' with real money, and then exchange them for in-game upgrades such as special outfits or abilities for their character</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Griefing', where someone intentionally ruins the game for other users</li> <li>• Contact with strangers</li> <li>• Players spending lots of 'Robux', which means spending lots of real money</li> </ul>
<b>Fortnite</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A game where players build structures, as well as fight computer-controlled monsters and other players</li> <li>• The most popular game mode, 'Battle Royale', pits 100 players against each other, either alone or in teams of up to 4</li> <li>• Players can communicate with each other using pre-determined icons, and with their teammates over voice chat</li> <li>• Players can buy 'V-Bucks' with real money, and then exchange them for in-game extras such as outfits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Griefing', where someone intentionally ruins the game for other users</li> <li>• Contact with strangers</li> <li>• Players spending lots of 'V-Bucks', which means spending lots of real money</li> </ul>

## Further information

This factsheet was produced by [The Key Safeguarding](http://www.thekeysupport.com/safeguarding): [www.thekeysupport.com/safeguarding](http://www.thekeysupport.com/safeguarding)

- > [TikTok is filled with pro-eating disorder content, despite its own rules, BuzzFeed](https://www.buzzfeed.com/cameronwilson/tiktok-eating-disorder-videos-algorithm-for-you-page)  
<https://www.buzzfeed.com/cameronwilson/tiktok-eating-disorder-videos-algorithm-for-you-page>
- > [TikTok app safety – what parents need to know, Internet Matters](https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/esafety-news/tik-tok-app-safety-what-parents-need-to-know/)  
<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/esafety-news/tik-tok-app-safety-what-parents-need-to-know/>
- > [Livestreaming and online video apps, NSPCC](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/livestreaming-online-video-apps/)  
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/livestreaming-online-video-apps/>
- > [What is Kick, the streaming platform that's signed up xQc?](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/newsbeat-66044165)  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/newsbeat-66044165>
- > [Online games, NSPCC](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-games/)  
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-games/>
- > [How can I keep my child safe on Instagram?](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/keeping-children-safe-on-instagram/)  
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/keeping-children-safe-on-instagram/>
- > [Six features to help keep your child safe on YouTube](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/how-to-keep-your-child-safe-on-youtube/)  
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/how-to-keep-your-child-safe-on-youtube/>