

LIGHT DUTY

ARE
THEY
SAFE?



NAVIGATING ONLINE SAFETY

The fast pace of new apps and digital platforms can leave parents feeling overwhelmed, as it's difficult to keep up with features, privacy settings, and potential risks. This can make it challenging to monitor what children are exposed to and stay informed about their online activity. We've compiled a list of apps identified by industry leaders that may pose potential risks to kids/teens and warrant parental awareness and monitoring.



THE 5 HABITS OF A TECH READY FAMILY

by Chris McKenna
of Protect Young Eyes

1. Model the Right Behavior

Children often mirror how adults use technology, so our everyday choices can model healthy digital boundaries.

2. Pursue Authentic Connection

Create an open, nonjudgmental environment where children feel safe coming to you with difficult questions or concerns about their digital experiences.

3. Encourage Work and Play

Balance screen time with physical activity and real-world play to support healthy brain development.

4. Delay Addictive Technologies

Provide children with age-appropriate technology at the right stage of development, supporting the [#DelaysTheWay](#) movement and encouraging healthy digital habits.

5. Diligently Prevent Harm

Use proactive digital guardrails, parental controls, and regular device check-ins to help prevent exposure to inappropriate content and online risks.



Light Duty Ministry is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that relies on the generosity and support of others to carry out its mission.

Donations may be sent to:
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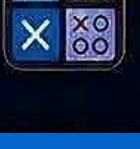
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MOBILE APPS PARENTS SHOULD KNOW



- 
1 ROBLOX
 Gaming platform with chat and friend requests. Parents should monitor communications, since strangers can use the platform to contact children.
- 
2 TIKTOK
 Short-video app where users create and share content. Children may encounter cyberbullying, explicit content, and risky direct messages.
- 
3 CALCULATOR%
 A hidden-vault style app used to hide photos, videos, files, and browsing history.
- 
4 SNAPCHAT
 Popular messaging app with disappearing content. Features like location sharing and extended viewing can increase safety risks.
- 
5 MOCOSPACE
 A social networking and dating app that connects users with strangers through messages and chats.
- 
6 MONKEY
 Live video chat app that matches users with random strangers for conversations.
- 
7 WHATSAPP
 Messaging app for texts, photos, videos, voice calls, and group chats. Children may be contacted by unknown users.
- 
8 HOLLA
 Video chat app that connects users with people around the world in seconds, which can expose children to inappropriate content.
- 
9 DISCORD
 Chat platform with servers, direct messages, voice, and video chat. Conversations can move outside parental supervision.
- 
10 WIZZ
 App that lets teens meet and direct message new people. Conversations can quickly move to other apps or platforms.
- 
11 BUMBLE
 Dating and social networking app. Kids have been known to create fake accounts to access it.
- 
12 HILY
 Dating app where users browse profiles, chat, send photos, and connect with nearby people.
- 
13 KIK
 Messaging app that allows direct contact and can bypass traditional text-message oversight.
- 
14 LIVEME
 Livestreaming app where users broadcast and interact in real time. Live content and location sharing can create safety concerns.
- 
15 SKOUT
 Location-based dating and social app. Users can misrepresent their age and communicate with strangers nearby.
- 
16 YUBO
 Livestreaming and social chat app that connects users with strangers. Children may be encouraged to share personal information.
- 
17 DOWN
 App designed to connect users with nearby strangers. Children can be exposed to adult conversations and requests to meet.
- 
18 MEETME
 Social and dating app that helps people connect based on geographic proximity.
- 
19 ZOOSK
 Location-based dating app that matches users with strangers.
- 
20 Badoo
 Dating and social networking app where users can chat, share photos, and connect by location.
- 
21 GRINDR
 Location-based dating app where users can chat, share photos, and meet nearby people.
- 
22 WHISPER
 Anonymous sharing app that can reveal a user's location and allow meetups with strangers.
- 
23 BEST SECRET FOLDER
 Vault app designed to hide photos and videos, often with password protection and decoy features.



BE A LIGHT IN YOUR HOMES



Children often want the apps their friends use and may not understand the potential risks. Parents should have open conversations about new apps, considering pros and cons while listening to their child's perspective and research. Creating this dialogue not only encourages discussions about safety, relationships, and mental health but also fosters an environment where kids feel comfortable coming to their parents for guidance.

To stay informed with online safety **LDM** also recommends these organizations:



Thorn for Parents



National Center for Missing Exploited Children



Bark Technologies



Protect Young Eyes



Scrolling 2 Death



To report suspicious activity or online exploitation, contact your local police department immediately and also report it to: <https://www.missingkids.org/gethelpnow/cybertipline>

