

WELLNESS WINDOW

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Social Media 101

47 Sites and Apps Kids Are Heading to Beyond Facebook (What Parents Need to Know Now)

According to commonsensemedia.com, next-generation apps that let user's text, video-chat, shop, and share their pics and videos are attracting teens like catnip.

Are teens totally over Facebook? Or are they using it even more than ever? Recent reports go back and forth on teens' favorite digital hangout, but the fact is that the days of a one-stop shop for all social-networking needs are over. Instead, teens are dividing their attention between an array of apps and tools that let them write, share, video-chat, and even shop for the latest trends.

You don't need to know the ins and outs of every app and site that's "hot" right now (and frankly, if you did, they wouldn't be trendy anymore). But knowing the basics -- what they are, why they're popular, and what problems can crop up when they're not used responsibly -- can make the difference between a positive and a negative experience for your kid. Below is a list of 47 sites and apps tweens and teens have access to and are using. Please continue the conversations about social media and safety on the internet with your daughters.

1. 4chan.org
Probably a collection of the worst of the Internet in one place. Users are mostly anonymous.
2. 9Gag.com
Image/social board consisting mostly of very inappropriate content.
3. AfterSchool
Advertised as "Funny Anonymous School News for Confessions & Compliments" in the Apple Store, this anonymous app by Ambient is much like YikYak and Whisper. This app allows sexual and graphic images.
4. Ask.fm
A Latvian-based social networking site where members interact by inviting others to ask anonymous questions.
5. Badoo
Mobile messaging. Less popular than Whatsapp or Kik.

6. [Bang With Friends](#)
Criticized for not delivering what it promises for adults 18 and older. The premise of the website is to discretely set up sexual encounters with Facebook friends. Those friends only know about somebody's interest when they reciprocate through the app.
7. [Burn Note](#)
A texting app that erases messages after a set period of time. Messages are stored until first viewed and then deleted.
8. [ChatRoulette.com](#)
This website allows people to anonymously video chat online with anyone and without any security blocks or filters. Frequently people are unclothed in the chats.
9. [Creepypasta](#)
Internet horror stories, passed around on forums and other sites to disturb and frighten readers. Includes stories from [Slender Man](#), a fictional character that inspired two 12-year-old Wisconsin girls to stab and nearly kill a friend.
10. [Dropbox](#)
Students can receive communications from unknown users. Gagle's Human Monitoring Service (HMS) has found evidence of sexting taking place via Dropbox.
11. [Facebook & Facebook Messenger](#)
A leading social network. Facebook Messenger allows for photo and video exchange as well as phone calls.
12. [Fess](#)
An anonymous app for high schoolers to post confessions. Users are validated that they're in high school through their Facebook accounts.
13. [FireChat](#)
This app that lets users chat without an internet or phone connection. FireChat uses a hidden iOS feature known as [Multipeer Connectivity Framework \(MCF\)](#) to relay messages instead of sending messages using a mobile signal. The free app creates its own network where each mobile device on it becomes a 'node.'
14. [Foursquare](#)
Goal-based location sharing. Kids can share their exact location to a public audience at any time.
15. [Google+](#)
A leading social network that's known to be used as a tool for bullies. A Google+ Hangout is an easy way for anyone to conduct private video chatting.
16. [Google Drive \(Docs\)](#)
Students can connect with outside users and communicate by sharing a document even

when email is limited to in-district communications or turned off. Our HMS Cyber Security Agents have seen instances of sexting, including inappropriate images, shared via Google Docs. We've also seen bullying, threats of physical violence and drug references shared with other users.

17. [Grom Social](#)

An online social networking website for kids between the ages of 5–16 years. Founded with the intention of creating a safe social networking site for kids.

18. [Instagram](#)

Users can post photos and have their followers comment. Recently Instagram has been in the news regarding its growing popularity for [trading or selling drugs online](#).

19. [Keek](#)

Facebook, but with videos. Users post and share short videos. We've seen some inappropriate content via email notifications.

20. [Kik](#)

An instant message service that also allows photo sharing.

21. [Leak](#)

A new service that allows people to send anonymous email. Launched in 8/2014 and suspended a week later due to violating a 3rd party API's "opt-in" policies. They are working on making this app available again.

22. [Meet Me](#)

A social networking site that lets users tailor their searches for potential social contacts by age and geography.

23. [Myex.com](#)

Top "Revenge-porn" website.

24. [Myspace](#)

One of the original social networks, still around but offering less personalization options as in the past. Gaining popularity with younger demographic.

25. [OKCupid](#)

Dating website basically used for sex.

26. [Omegle](#)

An instant message service that promises chats with random strangers. Also has a website that can be used instead of downloading the app.

27. [Oovoo](#)

A popular video chat among teens that is similar to Skype. It is a free download and lets you chat and video call others using a webcam. You are able to have group video chats. Users are able to have group chats.

28. [Path](#)
Strictly mobile-based social networking. Similar to Facebook.
29. [PhotoSwap](#)
Anonymous photo exchanging with a large amount of sexual content.
30. [Plenty Of Fish “POF”](#)
A cross-platform dating application with easy messaging. Often used for casual sex.
31. [Reddit Forums](#)
Good and bad. Users are mostly anonymous.
32. [Rooms](#)
Anonymous social app created by Facebook that allows people to create a “room” on any topic. A room is a feed of photos, videos, and text. The rooms can be public or private.
33. [Secret](#)
App that openly suggests and allows users to “Share with your friends, secretly. Speak freely.” Secret connects people anonymously through their address books.
34. [Slingshot](#)
Facebook has launched a Snapchat-like mobile app where friends send you photos and videos, but you can’t view an incoming message until you respond with a photo or video of your own.
35. [Snapchat](#)
App that allows users to send photo and videos that the app promises disappear within seconds.
36. [Spring.me](#)
Sister website of Ask.fm.
37. [Streetchat – Local Message Board](#)
In April 2014, a new App called “Gaggle – Local Message Board” appeared on iTunes, and subsequently the Google Play Store, which is *not* affiliated with our company. It has since been renamed “Streetchat – Local Message Board.”
38. [Tagged.com](#)
A social network that teenagers use for meeting new people that allows members to browse the profiles of other members, play games, and share tags and virtual gifts. Recently in the news for “[sextortion](#)“.
39. [Tinder](#)
A voting-/photo-based location-sharing dating website often used for casual sex.
40. [Truth](#)
App used to message your phone contacts anonymously.

41. [Tumblr](#)
A website that allows kids to post anything from anywhere, customize everything, and find and follow anything they want. Our HMS agents frequently see extremely inappropriate content related to sex/pornography and drugs.
42. [Viber](#)
A cross-platform chat application with chat and photo sharing.
43. [Vine](#)
This app allows users to post short videos. Kids are using Vine to physically hurt and publicly humiliate each other.
44. [Voxer](#)
Mobile-based messaging. Easy voice/image/location sharing.
45. [WhatsApp](#)
Similar to Kik. Same purpose and probably more popular.
46. [Whisper](#)
Intended for users age 17 and older, Whisper is an anonymous social “confessional” app that allows users to post whatever’s on their mind. Users type a confession, add a background image, and share it with a user community.
47. [Yik Yak](#)
Similar to ask.fm, but views are limited to those geographically close to the poster. **Yik Yak is now blocked in 85% of all high schools, according to the company.**

Safe, Smart & Social www.safesmartsocial.com is a great resource for parent’s tweens and teens. This site provides a series of “A Parent’s Guide Videos” that give the in’s & out’s and most real time explanations of many these sights.

As always, if you have question or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 737-5094 or via email at clee@stfrancishs.org