

10 APPS TEENS ARE USING THAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW



Calculator%
This app looks like a calculator but functions like a secret photo vault.



Hot or Not
Strangers rate your profile. Goal is to lead to a hook up.



Omegle
A free online chat website that promotes chatting anonymously to strangers.



Burn Book
Post anonymous rumors about people through audio messages, texts, and photos.



Yellow
This app is designed to allow teens to flirt with each other in a Tinder-like atmosphere.



Wishbone
An app that allows users to compare kids against each other and rate them on a scale.



Whisper
An anonymous app where the creators promote sharing secrets and meeting new people.



Kik
Messaging app. Kik has built in apps and web content that would be filtered on home computer.



Ask.fm
Ask an anonymous question and get an answer. This app has been linked to the most severe forms of cyberbullying.



Instagram
Many kids are now creating fake accounts to hide content from parents. Kids also like to text using Instagram because messages are deleted once a user leaves conversation.

FOR MORE INFO: APPSOLUTELYAPRIL.COM

Not all social apps are bad. Most of the apps our kids use are truly an extension of your child's "real world" social life. For the most part, our kids talk to people they only talk to in "real life." With the influence of technology in our kids social lives, we can't panic or over think every single thing, but we do need to empower each other and be aware of what our kids are doing when they are online and engaged in these apps. We teach our children how to swim so they don't drown and the same is true for online social behaviors. We have to talk to our kids and teach them how to navigate through this online world. I believe strongly in not blocking everything, but in my opinion, there are certain apps that are just off-limits and I will share those with you in this post. The problem in most cases is that parents just don't know how bad some of these apps can really be. The truth is told so perfectly by Kevin Honeycutt when he says, "Our kids are growing up on a digital playground and no one is on recess duty." So true.

Fun Facts:

- Kids are not 1, but 10 steps ahead of their parents in technology.
- More people own a cell phone than a toothbrush.
- 430 million users are on Instagram.
- 950 million users are on WhatsApp.
- Snapchat is used 30 million times every single day.
- 17 hours a week is the average that teens spend online.
- 70% of Snapchat users are female.
- Facebook's population is almost 4 times greater than the USA.
- 88% of teens have seen someone be mean or cruel to someone online.
- 20% of teens have received or sent nude or semi-nude photos.
- 67% of kids say they know how to hide info from their parents.

It's not all bad...

For every heartbreaking story about cyberbullying, there are many stories of teens and adults using social media for good. When people come together on social media to start a movement or create awareness for something they believe in, change really does come and that's amazing.

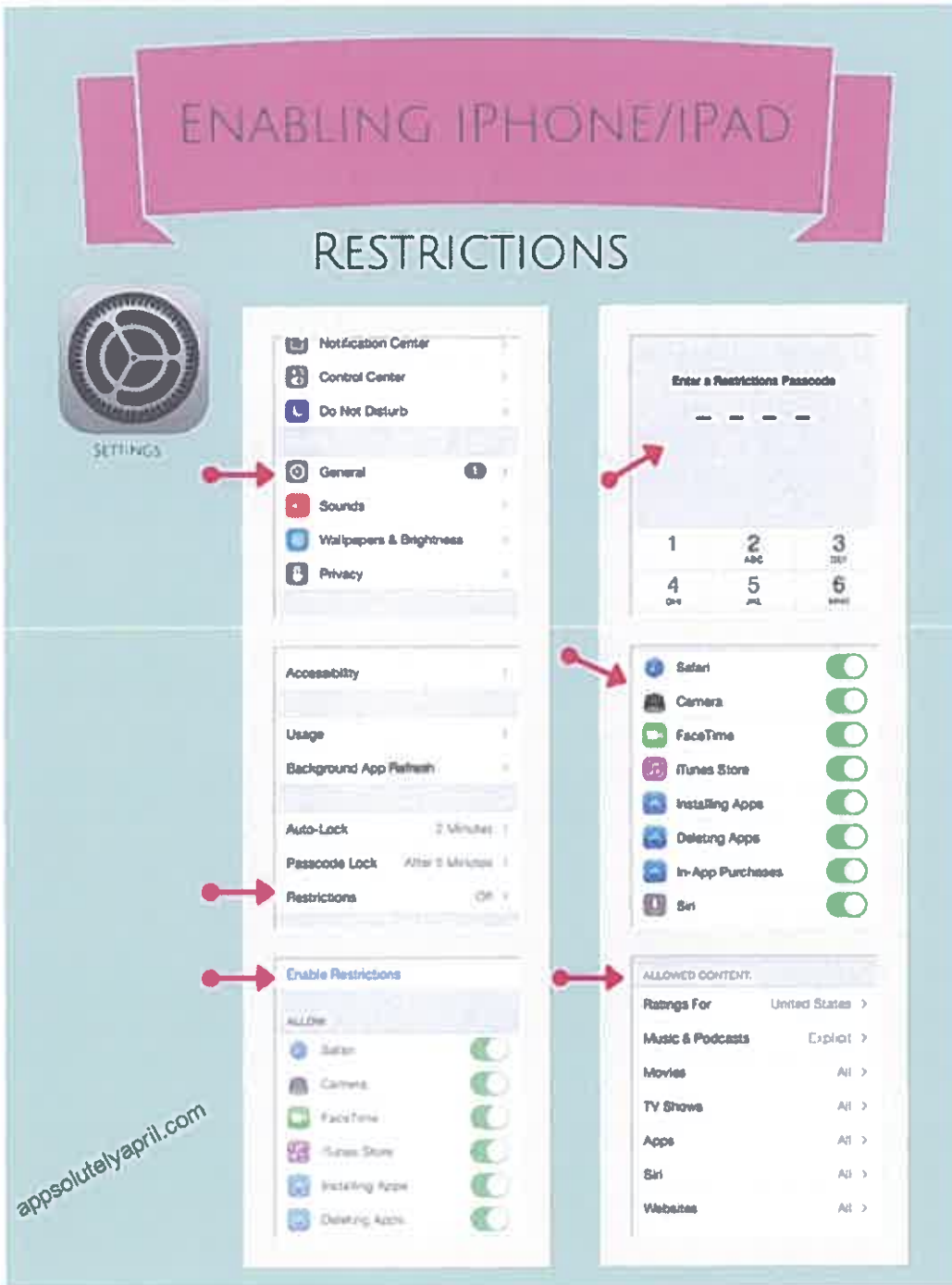
It's all about parent empowerment!

It's our job as parents to help our children navigate through this world that changes so fast as a result of our ever-changing technology ecosystem.

Here's a blog post I wrote a year ago about a fabulous app that I use every single day as a time-limit allowance for my kids using their phones. You can read it [here](https://appsolutelyapril.com/2017/06/15/parental-power-with-our-pact/) (<https://appsolutelyapril.com/2017/06/15/parental-power-with-our-pact/>). I HIGHLY recommend this application.

Parental Restrictions:

Step-by-step guide to enabling parental controls and restrictions on an iOS device:



Location Services:

If location services are on, chances are your child's location is being shared while using one of the apps. This is an important feature to turn off in specific applications.

TURNING OFF LOCATION SERVICES

Settings on iOS Device

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

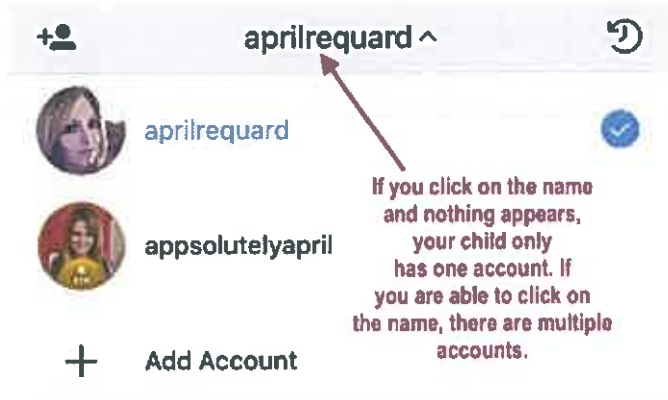
It's a good idea to NEVER share location with camera. Photos will be associated with a location.

See which apps are using your location

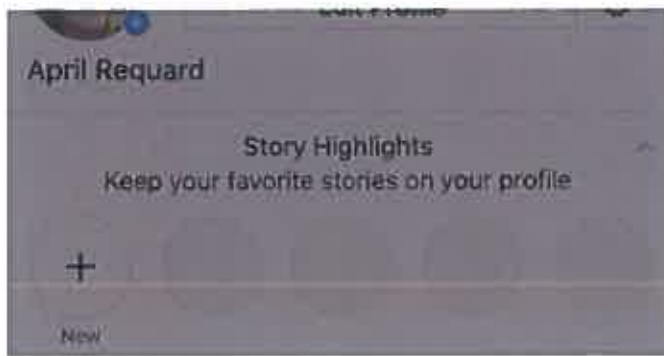
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Multiple User (Fake) Accounts:

Many social media platforms allow for more than one user account. Kids will use one profile to interact with their friends and the other one is their "angel" account where they'd only post what they'd want their grandmother to see. In Instagram, kids call it a "finsta" which means "fake Instagram" account. In order to find out if your kiddo has multiple accounts, you need access to their phone and you need their passcode. If you don't know their passcode, it might be time to have a



whole other conversation. 🤖 Once you are in the phone, open Instagram. Tap the head icon and that will open the profile. Tap on their name at the top of the screen. If there are multiple accounts, you will see them, if not, you won't see any other accounts. It's really easy to create a secondary account, so just watch for this and do periodic phone checks!



Secret Apps:

These apps are a photo vault that hides many types of photos when you open the app, it functions like a regular calculator, but when you type in your passcode, your secret photos come up.

There are child predators who know about these apps and try to engage with your child. Additionally, your child could be keeping secret photos (sexting or otherwise) that they don't want you to see.

SECRET APPS





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How to Find Secret Apps on Your Kid's iPhone



On your student's phone, open up the App Store Search using these key words: hidden, private photos, or secret

If the app says "OPEN" then your child has the app 

If the app says "GET" then your child doesn't have the app 

If there is a cloud icon, it means your child used to have the app and has deleted it. 

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	Omigod A free online chat website that promotes chatting anonymously to strangers.		Burn Book Post anonymous rumors about people through audio messages, texts, and photos.
	Tellow This app is designed to allow teens to flirt with each other in a Tinder like atmosphere.		Wahlone An app that allows users to compare kids against each other and rate them on a scale.
	Whisper An anonymous app where the creators promote sharing secrets and meeting new people.		Kik Messaging app. Kik has built in apps and web content that would be filtered on home computer.
	Ask.fm Ask an anonymous question and get an answer. This app has been linked to the most severe forms of cyberbullying.		Instagram Many kids are now creating fake accounts to hide content from parents - kids also like to text using Instagram because messages are deleted once a user leaves conversation.

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One thought on “10 Apps Teens are Using that Parents Need to Know”

[Cyndi Kuhn](#)

[March 21, 2018 at 11:36 am](#)

Powerful article. Thanks for all your research. I will be sharing with my Pre-service teachers. You ROCK!!

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