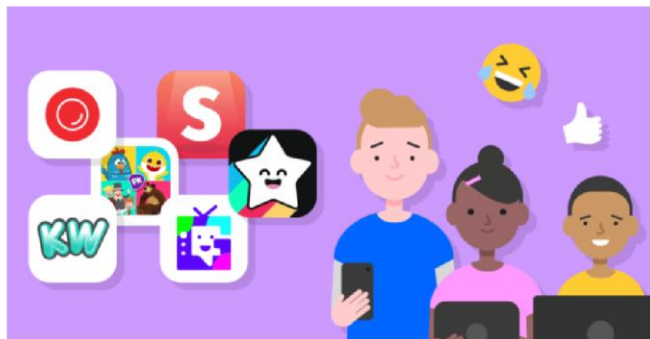


## Social networks made for children

Here is a list of child-friendly social media apps designed to help children learn how to interact with each other and share safely online.



Social media has continued to grow in popularity with both teens and tweens. According to a BBC survey, more than three quarters of younger children between 10 and 12 years old are using at least one social media network.

If your child is eager to start tweeting, posting or sharing but is not ready to use the likes of Facebook or Instagram, then there are a number of alternative social networks made for children that you can point them to.

These offer child-friendly features like games and contests but also give you a chance to use them as teaching tool to get them sharing safely. Ultimately, these social networks give children a safer environment where they can share their experiences and engage with friends they know.

**We strongly recommend that parents monitor the use of all social networking apps closely in order to keep your children safe.**

### 6-10 Years

Spotlite (formerly Kudos)

PlayKids Talk

GoBubble

Kidzworld: Chat Room & Forums

Grom Social

## Getting to grips with apps children use

Although child-friendly apps can make using the internet a more accessible and enjoyable experience, the thousands of apps available for different types of people mean it's important to make sure children use appropriate ones.

This guide maps some of the most common apps available and highlights those that might create risky situations for children, such as unintentionally revealing personal information, stranger danger and generating large bills through in-app purchasing.

It also features advice on apps that can be used to improve children learning and wellbeing to help them get the best experience out of the online world.



internet  
matters.org

The information within this leaflet has been taken from [www.internetmatters.org](http://www.internetmatters.org)

# At what age can my child start social networking?

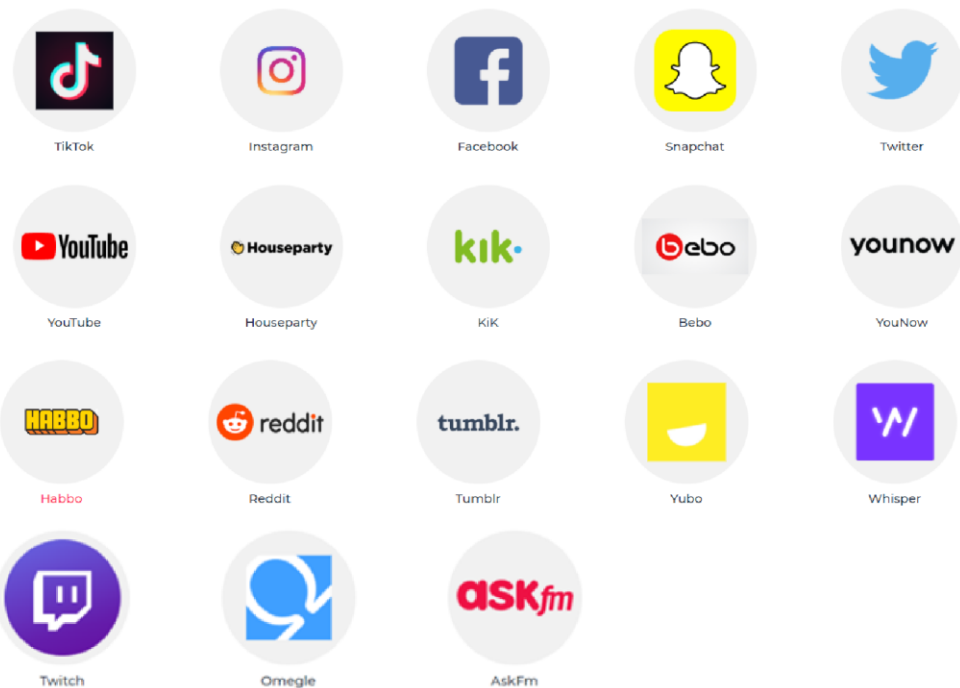
As a parent, it's important you know that all social networking platforms (or social networking apps, if on a smartphone) have age limits. Some social networks use technologies that may not be right for some ages or engage with communities that are made up of people much older than your child.

This guide to the most common social networks your child might be on serves as a guide.

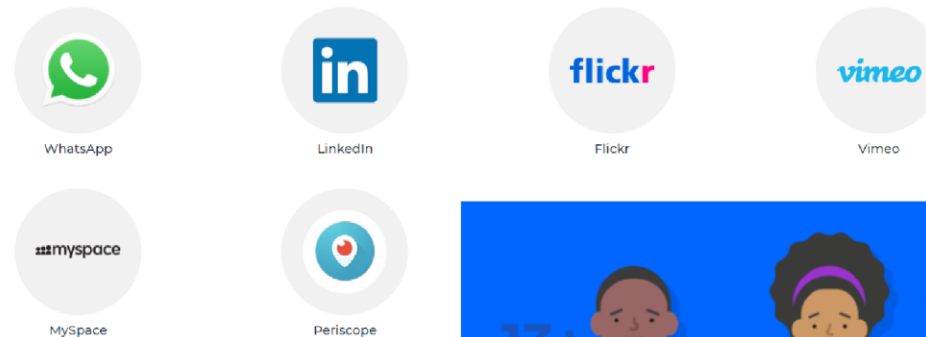
For more information, please visit:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/what-age-can-my-child-start-social-networking/>

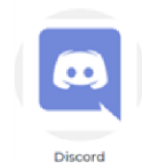
## 13 year olds and upwards



## 16 year olds and upwards



## 17 year old and upwards



## What are the risks of an underage social networking account?

- Many sites include an instant message function that allows private conversations between site members.
- Most social networking sites have an app version available, meaning your child will have access to the social network from their smartphone or tablet. Some app versions of social networks use the location of the phone.
- Information shared between friends can be easily copied or screenshot and may spread.
- It isn't easy to take back information that has been posted – and can be impossible if it's already been shared.
- Not everyone your child meets online will be who they say they are. Chatrooms and forums can connect people who are complete strangers and can be unmoderated.
- Chatrooms and forums are some of the places online groomers go to connect with children. They can also be places where people use a lot of inappropriate language and engage in online flirting. This is sometimes done through video chat programs.