



- A fast growing and popular social media networking site allowing users to send messages, pictures, videos and more.
- Kik is an instant messaging app that can be downloaded to a smart phone, iPad, iPod, etc. and has become very popular with children.
- Like most social media sites Kik is not inherently “bad”, it’s the users on Kik which make it safe or dangerous. For kids to be safe on Kik, parents need to monitor the ways their children are using the application.
- Kik becomes less safe when kid’s link their Instagram accounts to their Kik accounts because Kik does not have the same privacy settings. Once a user knows your Kik username, they can find you and send you messages. You can block users from sending you messages by changing your account to only allow messages from known contacts.
- Kik can also provide a kid’s location unless the Geo-location feature is turned off.

# Instagram

- 📷 A picture-based social media network. It appeals to kids because of the convenient tools available to enhance the pictures they post. Instagram still allows for kids to have an online profile and message others – similar to Facebook.
- 📷 Technically, Instagram is only for people 13yrs +, but this is easy for children to get around.
- 📷 All Instagram profiles are automatically set to “public”, so if your child has an account make sure they have changed it to “private” to increase security. Note: when a profile is set to private, you can still see the person’s user name and profile picture. All other content is hidden.
- 📷 Setting an Instagram account to private:



# snapchat

- 👤 This app appeals to kids because the messages are temporary. For example, a child can send a picture with a time limit of 30 seconds; once the recipient opens the message, they have 30 seconds to view it before it is deleted.
- 👤 However, there are apps like SnapHack which can “undo” the disappearing feature of SnapChat by permanently saving the message. This is good and bad: good because you can save images that may be harassing; bad because kids will use SnapChat to send embarrassing material they believe will be deleted.
- 👤 Another way to capture images and messages on SnapChat is to do a “screen capture” on your device. How to accomplish this will vary on the type of device you are using.
- 👤 Making SnapChat more secure:



## General Safety

- ✓ Make sure the profile is set to “private”. With Kik and SnapChat, make sure to block unknown users.
- ✓ Only take/send appropriate photos and messages.
- ✓ Do not add “friends” you do not know in real life.
- ✓ Turn off Geo-location services.
- ✓ Restrict applications on your child’s smart phone/iPod/iPad, etc.

## Location Services

- ◆ To turn off the Geo-location services for each app, in your device go to Settings, then to Privacy, then to Location Services. Select the app (Instagram, Kik, SnapChat) and turn off location services.

## Restricting Apps

- ◆ Like movies, apps have ratings for content:
  - 4+ : No objectionable material
  - 9+ : Some violence/maturity
  - 12+ : More violence/maturity
  - 17+ : Adult content
- ◆ You can restrict apps your child can download by going into your settings and doing the following:

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- ◆ You may be asked to set up a passcode or enter your passcode if you previously set one up. The passcode will prevent your child from changing the restrictions.
- ◆ When your child attempts to purchase an app that is outside of the approved ratings, the application will be “grayed-out” and they will not be able to click “download”.

Sources:

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# Internet Safety



# Kik, Instagram and SnapChat