

July/August 2014

SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

Smartphone Apps & Your Child's Safety

Convenience, a sense of security and safety, and even enhancing youth's social networking abilities are leading more parents to hand over smartphones at an earlier age. Yet, not all children are prepared to handle this type of responsibility. Understanding how your child is using their phone and what apps they download is critical to assuring their safety.

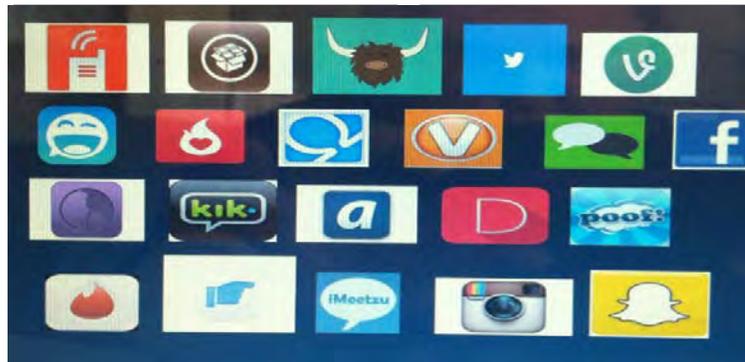
Some apps can provide helpful ways for families to stay connected. Parents can also use apps to monitor smartphone use and stay informed of their child's whereabouts.

Suggestions on monitoring apps can be found here:

<http://www.parents.com/kids/safety/internet/best-apps-prevent-cyberbullying/>

However, apps are also being used by children in ways that put them at risk. Exposure to mature content, cyberbullying, and communicating with strangers are only a few of the concerns.

More and more apps are using GPS tracking to pinpoint where posts originate. While there is a



CHECK OUT THE REAL DETAILS ABOUT THESE APPS:

Ask.fm, Clipchat, Voxel, Poke, Whisper, Tinder, Vine, Snapchat, Poof, KiK, Imeezu, Omegle, Hot or Not, Oovoo, YikYak, Backchat, Swipe, Down, Frankly

convenience associated with utilizing location services on your phone, the risk that others can also easily track you may be too high to ignore.

The following link contains some ideas to consider:
<http://www.microsoft.com/security/online-privacy/location-services.aspx>

Some apps have been designed to allow messages, photos, and other phone content to disappear within seconds. These apps provide young users with a false sense of privacy and make it more difficult for parents to monitor phone content. Considering the safety of these apps is not only

about trusting your child, but also everyone around them. Apps meant for sharing with friends are quickly becoming dangerous dating sites where strangers can access your child's information.

Many apps with seemingly innocent intent are exposing children to complicated issues they are not prepared to handle.

This link provides a chance to review some apps:
<http://fun.familyeducation.com/social-networking/cyberbullying/74548.html?page=1>

Helpful Tips:

- Talk to your child about apps, the dangers involved, and security settings.
- Don't be afraid to monitor phone usage and get passwords.
- Think about using an app to help monitor your children.
- Consider turning off the GPS tracking capability within apps.
- Be familiar with downloaded apps and understand the risks/benefits.
- Learn about parental controls :
iPhone:
<http://support.apple.com/kb/HT4213>
Android:
<http://www.pcadviso.co.uk/how-to/google-android/3461359/parental-control-on-android/>