



PARENT ADVICE

ONLINE SAFETY

Parent Tips

Keeping your information private and only available for people you choose (such as friends and family) can seem difficult in an increasingly on-line world. If you have a Facebook account, for example, your profile picture and user name is public and available for anyone to see (as stated in the t&c's of the app), regardless of your privacy settings. Being aware of how much of your information is publicly available is the first step to keeping it safe. Periodically "googling" yourself will give you an idea of what information about you is available online, so you can take steps to rectify this if you're over-exposed.



- UNSAFE
- CAUTION
- SAFE

MUSICAL.LY

- Sexual Content** ●●●●●
- Violence** ●●●●●
- Language** ●●●●●
- In-App Purchases** ●●●●●

WHAT IS IT?

Musical.ly is a live-streaming app which allows users to share videos and browse content by other users and celebrities. Viewers can pay to send gifts to celebrities in the form of "emojis" that range in cost from 5c to \$50 – the larger your donation, the more prominently your name appears on the live stream and the more likely the broadcaster is to notice you.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

There is no real way of verifying the age or identity of the user, and the app does not screen any content that is generated. It is currently self-ranked as being suitable for ages 12+.

The main attraction is the lip syncing function which involves popular music. As many top charting songs are sexually explicit and graphic, this may be something to factor into your decision making.

There have been documented cases of adults using the platform to try to solicit nude photos from underage users. Even with a "private" account setting, users can click on hashtags and stumble upon and view unmoderated (and possibly very inappropriate) material from other users.



- UNSAFE
- CAUTION
- SAFE

KIK

- Sexual Content** ●●●●●
- Violence** ●●●●●
- Language** ●●●●●
- In-App Purchases** ●●●●●

WHAT IS IT?

Kik Messenger is an instant messenger app for mobile devices. Kik is known for preserving users' anonymity by allowing users to register without providing a telephone number. It is advertised as being suitable for ages 17+.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Whilst its primary purpose is stated to be 'messaging', Kik Messenger has been criticised as being potentially unsafe for minors due to its anonymity features and weak parental control mechanisms. Downloading the app enables strangers to send adult and inappropriate material to its users. The app's anonymity more easily allows users to become targets of cyber bullying.

Kik has its own internal apps, some of which require users to purchase them or make in-app micro-transactions. Kik also has its own dating apps that randomly match users; however there is no way to verify the age of the people the app matches you with.

For more information and tips, visit our blog: www.perimeterguardian.com.au/insights

