



This guide can be used to learn more about Snapchat. It provides a detailed look at how your child uses the app, the potential risks they might encounter, the platform's safety features, and what you can do to help keep them safe on Snapchat.

What is Snapchat?

Snapchat is a mobile app known for its focus on **visual and temporary communication**, allowing users to send photos and videos that disappear after they're viewed. The minimum age to create a Snapchat account is **13 years old**.



Key Features of Snapchat

- **Snap:** Photos or videos sent to friends that disappear after they are viewed.
- **Filter:** Effects for photos and videos.
- **Augmented Reality (AR) Lenses:** Augmented reality (AR) effects for faces and surroundings.
- **Story:** A broadcast of a user's Snap that is visible to all their friends for 24 hours.
- **Spotlight:** A public feed of videos from the community.
- **Snap Map:** An interactive map showing your friends' locations and public Snaps.
- **Memories:** A private archive for saving Snaps and Stories.
- **Snapstreaks:** Tracks consecutive days friends send Snaps.



How does Snapchat Keep Your Child Safe?



Apps are **ever-changing** and so are their features! Please remember to check your or your child's settings regularly to stay aware of **any updates** to **in-app safety features**.



Private by Default Settings for Teens

Snapchat automatically makes teen accounts **private by default**, so they can only communicate with mutual friends and are protected from unwanted contact. **Other default privacy settings include:**

- **Public Profiles:** Not available for younger teens (13-15). For older teens (16-17), privacy settings block strangers from direct chats.
- **Friending and Contact Protections:** Snapchat may warn a user trying to add a teen without mutual contacts.
- **Location Sharing:** Off by default for all users

MORE INFO



Family Center

With a mutual opt-in, you can **monitor** your child's Snapchat friends and recent communications, **restrict** sensitive content, and **confidentially report** concerning accounts.

🔍 Where can I find this feature? ✕

Tap your **profile picture** > tap the **gear icon** > scroll to **"Privacy Control"** > tap on **Family Center**.

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How does Snapchat Keep Your Child Safe?

➤ Reporting & Blocking

Users can easily **report, block, or remove** other users who are sending unwanted or inappropriate content.

🔍 Where can I find this feature? ✕

- **To Report or Block a user from the Chat screen:** Tap and hold on **their name** > select **Manage Friendship** > find the **Report** or **Block** options.
- **To Report a Snap or Story:** Press and hold on the **content itself** > tap **Report Snap** or **Report**.
- **To Report a Public Profile:** Go to **the profile** > tap the **three dots or gear icon** > select **Report**.

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➤ “Here For You” Tool

This tool provides immediate, confidential support by surfacing mental health resources when a user searches for related terms like "anxiety" or "depression."

🔍 Where can I find this feature? ✕

Tap **the search icon** > type **a mental health topic** (like “anxiety”) > the **“Here for You” resources** will appear in the search results.

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What are the Risks of Snapchat?



Risk #1: Predators

> Warning Signs

Friend requests/DMs from strangers, conversations becoming personal quickly, requests for secrecy, pressure to move to other apps, and offers of gifts.

> What You Can Do

Talk with them about online safety, like recognizing grooming tactics and knowing what personal information to avoid sharing. Remind them to always block and report suspicious users.



Risk #2: Addiction

> Warning Signs

Anxiety when away from phone, stress over "Snapstreaks", losing interest in hobbies, late nights, constant urge to check.

> What You Can Do

Create phone-free zones/times; turn off notifications; use screen-time tools; build time-awareness; model healthy habits.



Risk #3: Cyberbullying

> Warning Signs

Changes in their mood, such as increased sadness or anxiety, or shifts in their behavior like avoiding friends, declining school performance, or changes in their sleep and eating habits.

> What You Can Do

Have regular, low-pressure conversations about their online experiences. Show them how to use Snapchat's safety tools. Remind them they deserve respect online, and seek professional help if their well-being is at risk.