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Parents' Ultimate Guide to TikTok

Is TikTok safe? How does it work? And can I do a duet with my kid?

Everything you need to know about this popular musical singing and sharing app. With so many social networks to keep track of, it's not surprising if your kid's obsession with the TikTok app leaves you scratching your head. So what is it exactly?



TikTok is a free social media app that lets you watch, create, and share videos -- often to a soundtrack of the top hits in music -- right from your phone. With more than 100 million users in the United States alone, TikTok has innovative video-editing features, viral dances, and celebrity cameos that make it incredibly popular. And though the app has generated controversy, it can be a fun, creative outlet for tweens and teens (and parents!) when used safely and responsibly.

While much of TikTok is harmless fun, there are real concerns about kids using the app. As [with any social network](#), you have to use privacy settings to limit how much information you and your kids are sharing. Because you can post videos immediately without first reviewing or editing them, kids can upload impulsively. And other issues have dogged the app: reports of [online predators](#) using the app to target younger users; an FTC suit for violating children's privacy law; and serious software glitches - including one that could have allowed [the company to collect user data](#).

Further information can be found on: www.common sense media.org/articles/parents-ultimate-guide-to-tiktok/

PANTS Makaton guides

The NSPCC has created new PANTS resources to keep children who communicate using Makaton safe from sexual abuse. PANTS (the five underwear rules) supports parents and carers to have conversations with their child to help keep them safe from sexual abuse. The resources include Makaton guides explaining the rules and setting out the importance of having these conversations with children.



Access the resources: [Working with diverse groups](#)

Sexting

Revealing Reality has released a report, supported by the PSHE Association, which looks at sexting. The report highlights the extent of the issue and the unequal way it affects young people depending on their gender, socioeconomic circumstances and self-perception. Findings from a survey of 5,197 14-18-year-olds include: 61% of girls have been asked to share a nude image compared with 31% of boys; and nearly two thirds of girls from a disadvantaged background had been asked to send a nude image, compared with half of the girls from non-disadvantaged backgrounds.

Read the report: [Is sharing nudes just harmless flirting?](#)