

What now?

Remember, your child's safety is more important than their privacy. As a parent, you aren't being nosy by checking their cell phone on a regular basis; you are being responsible. Perhaps your family could establish family media rules, such as having to check with a parent before downloading a new app or game. Having a common charging area so you can easily check phones could also be a good system for your family.

If you have an older teen, and find some questionable apps on their phone, it may be a good opportunity for a discussion. Here are a few conversation starter ideas:



Conversation starter for Yik Yak:

What kind of things would a person want to post anonymously? How would you personally use this app? What would you post anonymously? Why?



Conversation starter for Snapchat:

Why do you want to send pictures that disappear? Would you be okay with anyone seeing that pic?



Conversation starter for Whisper:

Why would you tell your secrets to strangers? If you are struggling with something, will a stranger care or be able to help you? Do you think it would be safe to accept their help/friendship?



Conversation starter for any app:

Are you being safe with that app? Are you encouraging others or tearing them down? Are you being bullied? Are you putting out too much information about yourself?