

TikTok

The internet is an entertaining and informative place full of creative ideas and also it can be a scary place full of creepy strangers and any sort of content. The best way to help our children to help how to navigate it is to learn it ourselves.

What is TikTok?

It's a free social media app that lets you create, share and watch short videos (up to 3 minutes) According to TikTok's terms and conditions, the minimum age for being eligible is 13.

What are some possible benefits?

- Young people might get better at learning and performing dances
- They may also improve their dramatic skills, as well as learn some basic videography
- Young people may creatively come up with funny concepts

What could be the risks/ concerns?

- Parents all around the world have expressed concerns about the inappropriate language and content of some videos.
- A lot of the content isn't necessarily filtered or age-appropriate
- It can over-sexualizes dances/ music and so on
- Anyone can end up watching what is posted on TikTok. You do not need an account. This includes strangers being able to watch your kids' videos if the account is not set to private (by default any new profile is public).
- All users can like videos, follow an account or send messages to each other, so there is the risk that strangers will be able to send messages to children
- The difference with other social: in TikTok the 'For you page' is based on the most popular videos and this means that children are often exposed to humor, ideas, dances and content that may not be linked to what they have already been watching

What you can do to help your children negotiate the space?

- Set the account to be private. In this way, the videos can be seen only by approved followers. With a private account you can approve or deny users and limit incoming messages to followers only. Please note that even with a private account, your child's profile photo, username, and bio are still visible to all users.
- Have conversations with your children around the use of social media, the positives and negatives and how to keep themselves safe

How do we set an account to private to limit some of the interactions?

1. Go to Profile (Me), tap on the three lines at the top right corner, go to privacy, turn **Private Account** on.
2. Also, go to Profile (Me), tap the three lines, go to Privacy, tap to Comments, and chose a comment setting.
3. To manage the screen-time you can go to Profile (Me), tap on the three lines at the top right corner, go to **Digital Wellbeing** > Screen Time Management and follow the instructions.
4. To turn on Restrictive Mode and limited the access to videos, you can go to Profile (Me), tap the three lines at the top right corner, go to Digital Wellbeing > Restricted Mode and follow the instructions.
5. Through Family Pairing you can control and customize the safety settings directly from your account: screen time management; restricted mode; search for content, users, hashtags;

direct messages; liked videos; comments. Go to Profile (Me), tap the three lines, go to Family Pairing, select the account you want to manage and update the control.

From:

<https://parentingplace.nz/resources/a-parents-guide-to-tiktok>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/esafety-news/tik-tok-app-safety-what-parents-need-to-know/>