

Hottest Social App Trends for Teens

The most popular apps kids are using to stay connected

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Parents: *Always educate yourself and children on the dangers of [online child predators](#). Learn how to [monitor your child's activities](#) online (on smartphones, too!), [block access to websites](#) or [disable a webcam](#) if you are concerned about your child having access to these and other similar sites.*

Social networking is constantly evolving. Gone are the days when [MySpace](#) and [Facebook](#) ruled the web. Now, practically everyone's gone mobile, with real-time photo and [video sharing](#) becoming the big trend that people are most excited about, especially teenagers.

So, where's the younger generation to go? Well... they're already on their phones and tablets, of course, so they make the best of it by using the most popular social networking and messenger apps on the market. Kids are flocking to these by the thousands each and every month.

[WhatsApp](#)

Lots of kids still use [Facebook Messenger](#) on their phones to get in touch with their friends, but you might not realize that Facebook owns another messaging app called [WhatsApp](#).

WhatsApp had 700 million monthly active users as of January 2015, and they're not just using the texting feature. WhatsApp also lets you post status updates, send video, share your location and make voice/video calls over the internet.



Snapchat

[Snapchat](#) is another extremely popular private messaging app for photos and short videos, which are automatically deleted after they've been viewed for a few seconds.



For teens, this "self-destructing" feature is a big part of what makes Snapchat so appealing, encouraging kids to interact more given that all their previous snaps disappear.

Privacy, sexting and [screenshot saving](#) has posed some issues for this one (be cautious when letting your kids use it).

Telegram

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Telegram is interesting because it lets you do a lot more than your typical texting app, and it's completely free with zero advertisements.

All of your texts and phone calls are encrypted through Telegram and you can send absolutely any file type you wish (even large ones up to 1.5 GB). This is totally unique to most messaging apps that just support image and video files.



All your messages are synced across all the supported devices because your messages (and even files) are stored in the cloud. However, you can delete texts whenever you wish and even make secret chats that dissolve messages on a timer.

Kik



Like WhatsApp, [Kik](#) has become an insanely popular messaging app for kids who like to chat with their friends. It's just one of the other fast and intuitive messaging apps used as an alternative to SMS texting, requiring only a username rather than a phone number.

[Bots](#) are also supported in Kik so that you can communicate with the world through a chat interface.

If you take a look on Instagram, you'll probably notice that a lot of profiles list their Kik usernames in their bios so that other Instagrammers have some kind of way to contact them privately.

Twitter



Because of how big of a resource Twitter has become for getting [real-time news](#) and connecting with high-profile individuals and celebs (like musicians, bands, actors, politicians, etc.), teens have quickly taken a liking to this microblogging social network.

Plus, because Twitter is so extremely simple to use from a mobile device, it's all the more convenient to access. Of course, with its integration of embedded multimedia like photos, articles, and videos in tweets through [Twitter Cards](#), the visual component that most kids really love can get that on Twitter too.

Google+

Google, Inc.

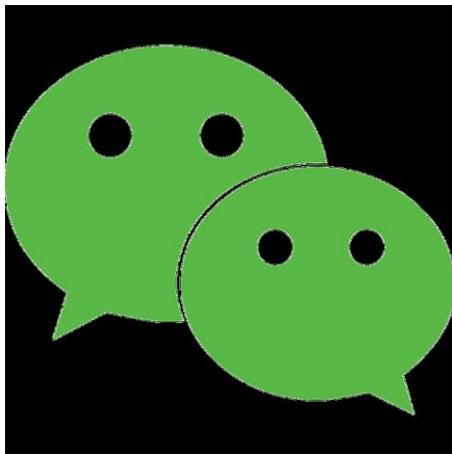
[Google Plus](#) is almost difficult to avoid since it's attached to Google's other services like Search, Gmail, YouTube, Google Play and Google Docs. Plus, since they're so intimately intertwined, it's easy to find friends who already have an account.

Google's social network is a bit like Twitter in that it's a large feed of information that's constantly updated. You can make specific circles of certain types of people to follow so it's easy to only look through what you're interested in.

Google Plus has a whole slew of other cool features backed into it, like photo editing and [Hangouts](#), Google's popular video and text chat service for individual or group chats.



WeChat



WeChat

Sign up to WeChat from your phone by using your phone number. The whole sign up process is very simple and straightforward, after which you can call phones, talk with friends and even meet totally random people from around the globe.

A unique feature with WeChat that isn't seen in most other messaging apps is its *Shake* button. Use it to find other WeChat users in the world who are shaking their phone too, and you can immediately start chatting with them.

A similar *People Nearby* section of the app lets you chat with people near your location.

Add "Moments" to WeChat for friends to see. It's like a status update popular with these types of apps. There are also WeChat Games that you can play with contacts, plus the ability to send short audio clips, emojis, your location, favorited messages and whole albums. If you're not sure about a particular emoji meaning, [use a translator app](#).

Instagram



Facebook may have ruled social photo sharing on the web, but [Instagram](#) arguably rules over it on mobile.

Although Instagram doesn't openly share how many of its users are teens, it's not all that hard to see that this mobile social platform is absolutely infested with them.

All you have to do is check out the photos on the [popular page](#) (Explore tab) or search through some [popular hashtags](#) to get a glimpse of how young the dominant demographic truly is on Instagram.

Tumblr



Tumblr, Inc.

[Tumblr](#) is one of the web's most popular blogging platforms, and a lot of teens have admittedly traded in their Facebook accounts for a Tumblr blog instead.

Like Snapchat and Instagram, Tumblr is largely dominated by visual content and has become one of the number one platforms for [animated GIF sharing](#).

Although Tumblr allows its users to create blog posts in all sorts of formats like text, audio, quote, and dialogue, it's arguably the visual content - the photos, videos, and GIFs, that makes time spent on Tumblr something to be cautious of!

ASKfm



ASKfm is a Q&A-based website and app that lets its users take questions from their followers, and then answer them one at a time, any time they want.

It gives youngsters another reason to talk about themselves other than in the comment section of their own [selfies](#)! Although ASKfm may not be as huge as Instagram or Snapchat, it's a big one to watch, for sure.

With such a big interest from youngsters, it absolutely has the potential to become the go-to place for Q&A content. **Parents should be cautious about what is being posted.**