PARENTS GUIDE TO SNAPCHAT

What is the app about? / What does it let you do?

Snapchat is a popular messaging app that lets users exchange pictures and videos to each other (called snaps) that are meant to disappear after they're viewed. The more you use the app, the more points you get "Snap score" and the higher your Snapchat score goes. Snapchat awards high scorers with trophies and other perks.

How to sign into the app?

You need to download, the Snapchat app. All you need to sign up is your name, an email address, and your date of birth, once this is done tape the "Sign Up" button. On Snapchat, users go by a handle, and Snap-chatters gravitate toward silly names. When you sign up, Snapchat gives you your own unique QR code "Snap-code",

How to use the app?

Down at the bottom there is a map



- location symbol (snap map)
- speech box (where you text)
- camera symbol (where you make snaps and sent them)
- symbol of two people (videos of other people)
- play symbol (the best videos)

if you swipe across you should be apply to go to them.

How to start a conversation?

On Snapchat, photos -- not text -- usually start the communication. To begin a conversation, you tap the big camera circle and take a snap. There are all sorts

of photo-editing tools (you have to experiment to figure out what they do) as well as filters to adorn your images. Once you customize your snap, you can send it to anyone in your friends list or add it to your story, which is a record of the day that your friends can view for 24 hours.

How to add friends?

To add friends, you can upload your contacts or search for people you know. You can also automatically add someone by taking a picture of their "Snap-code"

Where the settings are found?

If you go into snapchat and touch your bitmoji in the corner of the screen



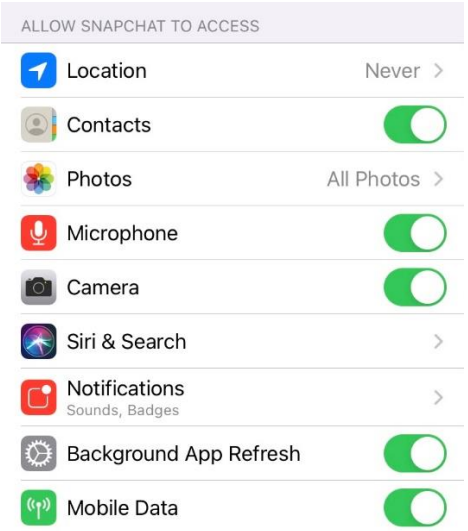
then touch the little gear icon next to the profile image, you'll be in your settings. The setting contain your Snapchat information and you can change your snapchat settings.



What features could be seen as a security risk?

What permissions the app requires?

The app will look into getting permission for the following:



What parents should know about these permissions?

- One of the most dangerous permissions is the snap map that shares your location to your friend(s). If you had friended the wrong person, they could see your location and take advantage off it. It is advisable to not let Snapchat be able to see your location.
- Also, it's a myth of disappearing messages, the snaps you send don't really delete and the person you send the snap to can screenshot it but it will tell you they took a screenshot. Plus, they can save the chat, you can tell if they have done this if the text is shaded.
- Remember that Snapchat needs access to the camera and microphone and collect a ton of data about your child habits, and then share this data with third parties. Remember your child that all their activity on Snapchat is being recorded, collected, and even potentially shared. This is the perfect time to have an online safety chat.

If the permissions can be turned off/revoked and still use the app?

Yes, permission can and should be turned off to protect your children safety. They can still use the app but in a safe way.

How do parents ensure their child is kept safe when using the app?

A clear age rating for the app (in UK)

According to the terms of service, users must be 13. You have to enter your birth date to set up an account, but there's no age verification, so it's easy for kids under 13 to sign up. Common Sense Media rates Snapchat ok for teens 16 and up, mainly because of the exposure to age-inappropriate content and the marketing ploys, such as quizzes, that collect data.

Tips for parents on how they can help their child be as safe as possible on the app

- The biggest challenge for parents is that there's no way to see your kid's activity in the app. Instead, focus on the privacy settings.
- Every once in a while, go and check your child's snapchat settings
- Talk to your child about using Snapchat account safely and responsibly.
- Make sure your child is not spending all their time on Snapchat to get a higher Snapchat score