

ThinkUKnow e-Newsletter - September 2016

Kids love a new app. Sometimes there are so many new ones, we don't have time to keep up! This month we have looked into two of them, Yellow and the Secret Calculator.

Hello? Yellow?

Yellow has been described as a Tinder approach to making Snapchat friends.

The app allows users to make more Snapchat friends by enabling communication between Snapchat users. Users will see your profile and swipe left or right, to 'connect' or 'not connect' with you.

If two users both swipe right to 'connect' then both users are provided the Snapchat usernames, and both can add each other in Snapchat.

Once added in Snapchat, you can share private videos, 'snaps' and talk in private conversations with the users you added from Yellow.

You can block or report other users within the Yellow and Snapchat apps, however in Yellow your profile photo and location is never private.

What can you do?

1. Make sure your children only have people they know and trust as online friend and contacts. That's people they actually know, not people they've only meet online.
2. Remind them it's never OK to meet someone they've met online in person without taking along a trusted adult.
3. Let them know their location and profile photo isn't private in Yellow.

Secret Calculator

Something just doesn't add up!

While this app has been around for some time, we've recently had some parents

Time2Talk

- Recent statistics from the makers of Yellow show that users are swiping more than 30 million times a day with more than 500,000 matches registered every day.
- They believe that in five years, there will be virtual relationships meaning that you won't meet your boyfriend or girlfriend in real life.
- Is virtual flirting the future of dating?

The secret calculator looks similar to a regular calculator, but allows users to input a passcode to reveal a vault of hidden images and videos. All files are securely stored in the app and cannot be viewed in the camera roll.

The calculator app allows users to take pictures in the app or select photos to hide from your existing camera roll. The pictures can be shared via email.

Studies show that approximately one in 10 teenagers have sent a sexually explicit text message or image. More worryingly, one in five teenagers have seen these sorts of images.

What can you do?

1. Remind young people that as soon as they send an image, they have lost control over where it ends up. If it ends up online, it cannot be deleted.
2. Open up strong lines of communication with your child about what they are doing online.
3. Develop strategies of avoiding creating inappropriate content. Some young people may feel pressured by their girlfriend or boyfriend. Helping a young person to develop effective strategies of saying 'no' will help them when they need it.
4. Why not set up a Family Online Safety Contract?

ask some questions about it again.

The secret calculator app—known as a ‘ghosting’ app—is just one of many secret photo vaults used by young people to hide images and videos.

<https://www.thinkuknow.org.au/site/family-online-safety-contract>

5. Encourage your child to think before they send images.