



# PARENT ADVICE

## ONLINE SAFETY

### Parent Tips

The AirDrop feature of iPhones has been celebrated as a quick way to share videos and photos between friends and colleagues, but has since been used to 'cyberflash' unsuspecting individuals. 'Cyberflashing' involves sending inappropriate photos or videos to iPhone users within close proximity to the sender. Users do not have to even accept the image to have seen most the image. Bullying memes sent between classmates has also been reported. Parents with children who are iPhone users are encouraged to change the default AirDrop settings to 'contacts only' or 'receiving off' in AirDrop (Settings / General / Airdrop).



**UNSAFE**  
CAUTION  
SAFE

### LOMOTIF

#### PROS

#### CONS

- Chat with strangers
- No restrictions
- Sexual themes
- Drug use

#### ABOUT:

'Lomotif' is a music video creating and sharing app, which has chat functionality and the ability to follow and gain followers.

#### WHAT ARE THE RISKS:

One of the first risks we came across when reviewing 'Lomotif' was the lack of any sign up or registration process. Once the app is downloaded, short featured videos start appearing which can be inappropriate for young people and children.

While the app has an age rating of 4+, there are numerous featured videos which have highly sexualized themes and dancing, and drug use. These videos are inappropriate for 4 year olds.

Once registered, users can begin to chat to anyone, gain followers and start uploading their own music videos, with no restrictions to their content. Parents have reported that their children have been bullied by strangers when posting videos, with nasty comments and threads of comments being posted. Videos can also be shared amongst other people, not just the followers of the original poster of the video.



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### TIKTOK

#### PROS

#### CONS

- Creative
- Share experiences with friends
- Chat with strangers
- Encourages risky behaviour
- Sexual content

#### ABOUT:

Formerly known as Musical.ly, TikTok is an extremely popular music video app, where users can record themselves lip-syncing, dancing, doing gymnastics or creating comedy videos.

#### WHAT ARE THE RISKS:

While the developers have recently been fined US\$5.7 million for illegally collecting personal information from children, they haven't improved the adult nature of the videos. No sign in or verification is required (simply a tick box to state that you are, in fact over 13 years old).

Parents have expressed concern about the highly sexualized nature of the videos (especially when children are lip-syncing to chart toppers, which can be particularly sexual or contain high levels of profanity). Users can also easily come across drug and alcohol use, bullying (sometimes to people with disabilities) and self-harm. Many trending hashtags involve challenges that encourage dangerous behaviour. The comments section of the videos can be particularly nasty and profanity-laden.

For more information and helpful parent tips regarding your child's tech use, visit [www.perimeterguardian.com.au/insights](http://www.perimeterguardian.com.au/insights)

