



PARENT ADVICE

ONLINE SAFETY

Parent Tips

There are many internet-enabled devices available on the market this Christmas, which parents may think are harmless but actually have the capability of getting around your home WiFi restrictions. Gaming consoles and toys such as Xbox, PlayStation, drones, VR headsets, Go Pros, Switch, and many other internet-enabled devices may have the ability to video or live chat stream directly from the internet, which has the potential to invite strangers and predators into your living room. Check the instructions on each device and enable restrictions that are appropriate for your child's age.



UNSAFE
CAUTION
SAFE

ASK.FM

- | | |
|-------------|--------------------|
| PROS | CONS |
| | Anonymous |
| | Offensive language |

ABOUT:

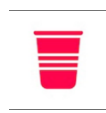
Ask.FM is a website and application that allows users to both ask and answer questions anonymously to a wide user-base. Users can post a question for the general user-base to answer anonymously, or individual users are able to directly ask other users questions, in which those asking the questions can still remain anonymous.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS:

Ask.FM allows anonymous questions to be asked, and there is no limit to the subject matter of the questions. Questions can be as prying, inappropriate or personal as the user wishes. Ask.FM discourages users under 13 years old, but as there's not a hard measure which verifies age and the app relies on the trust system of users selecting their ages, anyone of any age can gain access.

Parents are concerned about the idea of kids asking and answering questions anonymously, providing with them a false sense of security.

In addition, because an answer provided online can seem more authoritative than one given in person, children could falsely rely on answers being truthful or factual. The potential for misleading children or even putting them in harm's way is limitless. With the limited ability that children possess to detect threats in grooming, and even simply evaluating if a question is too deep or inappropriate, this app has raised alarm bells amongst parents.



UNSAFE
CAUTION
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HOUSE PARTY

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| PROS | CONS |
| Free | Chat with strangers |
| Ability to 'lock' the room | Sexual themes |
| | Location always enabled |

ABOUT:

House party is social application that allows individuals to live-stream videos of themselves into a group (or 'party'). This 'party' is created using the user's phone contacts and friends, but also has the ability to open the group up to strangers and allow individuals to meet new people.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS:

Like most applications, House Party operates on a trust system. Guidelines for the app clearly state that bullying, nudity, creating fake profiles and misleading people are strictly prohibited. However, House Party allows and even encourages contact with strangers, which increases the chance for bullying, grooming and trolling. Another risk is that users can come into contact with and view material they shouldn't be seeing through chats that involve strangers.

The app also has a side messaging function built in, which means that users can contact other users directly during the video chat, while the rest of the group will be unaware.

Parents have expressed concerns that the recommended age of 9 years is too young for the activities offered by this app.

For more information and helpful parent tips regarding your child's tech use, visit www.perimeterguardian.com.au/insights.

