PARENT ADVICE
ONLINE SAFETY

Parent Tips

Deciding which apps and games are safe for your children can be extremely confusing –In Google Play, for example, Reddit is set as suitable for ages 12+, while in the Apple App store, it's set at 17+. Additionally, each family differs regarding what they allow their children to do, and at what age. New social media apps come and go so quickly and it can be hard to keep up. A good start to protecting your children online is to not allow phones in their bedrooms overnight, where reportedly most cyberbullying and sexting can occur (during their most vulnerable hours).

4+

○ UNSAFE
● CAUTION
○ SAFE

BEAUTY PLUS

PROS
Entertaining ★
Good parental controls ✋

CONS
▣ Inappropriate ads
◉ Filters don't always work

ABOUT:

BeautyPlus is a photo editing app designed to allow users to edit their own selfies in order to digitally enhance their physical appearance. The app includes what's called an "Auto-Beautification" tool, which includes features such as "auto face-lift", blemish removal and skin lightening. There are also "reshape" and "firm" features available in the in-app purchases.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS:

BeautyPlus is officially categorised as a "Health and Fitness" app, creating the false impression that editing one's facial features is a matter of personal health. Community concern has been raised around the belief that BeautyPlus and similar face-editing apps can set unrealistic and false beauty standards for young people, especially young girls. Some parents have expressed concern that the app's name, purpose and features implicitly promote the idea that users must digitally enhance their facial features and skin tone in order to be considered beautiful.

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

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17+

○ UNSAFE
● CAUTION
○ SAFE

REDDIT

PROS
Free 💲
Good source of information 💡

CONS
◉ Easy to bypass adult filter
💬 No way to control offensive language
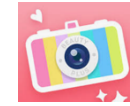💬 #roastme section

ABOUT:

Reddit is the official mobile application for the social news website of the same name, which claims to be the "front page of the Internet." Registered members of Reddit can post news articles, videos, discussion topics and more in the app, and these are then voted up or down by other users. Posts are organised into subject matter categories called "subreddits."

WHAT ARE THE RISKS:

While Reddit has banned any depiction of or reference to sexual or suggestive content regarding minors, there are no restrictions on other sexual content. Concerns have been raised around the anonymity of users and the ease with which they can make unfounded claims about others without proper scrutiny or accountability. The #roastme section is of particular concern for vulnerable teens, where users can upload a photo and willingly submit themselves to being picked on and cyberbullied. This section manages to pop up a number of times in the home feed, without any special searches.

By default, Reddit includes a filter that hides over 18 content and Not Safe For Work (NSFW) images, which is automatically turned on. However, this function can simply be turned off with the swipe of a button and does not require any kind of age verification.

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