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Chart 26: ACTIVE USERS OF THE TOP SOCIAL PLATFORMS AND MESSAGING TOOLS, BY AGE







Two APPS you should know about



Snapchat



Marco Polo PHASE



- SNAPCHAT is a photo-messaging app that allows users to put a time limit on a sent picture, text, or video so the recipient can see it for only a few seconds before it disappears, though replays are available for purchase via in-app transactions.

- By tapping and holding their own image in the selfie cam, teens enable facial-recognition software that allows them to add animated effects to their selfies.

- The app has gained a reputation as a "sexting" app because outgoing (and incoming) pictures, videos, and texts are not stored on devices, but many teens use it simply to exchange fun, silly pictures

- Families can talk about

- the long-term effects of sharing what are assumed to be private moments through apps like Snapchat.

Parents also can remind kids that nothing, once posted to the Internet, ever really goes away -- and it can come back to haunt them.



MARCO POLO VIDEO WALKIE TALKIE can stay in touch with friends (and anyone else on their contact lists), exchanging video messages in real time or when it's convenient. For example, one person can send a video message, and the recipient can respond when it works for them, continuing the conversation. In contrast to FaceTime or Skype, where you have to be present at the same time, this app lets users have a video conversation on a delay. To spice things up, you can add filters to the videos and add text messages and doodle on-screen.

FAMILIES CAN TALK ABOUT...

- Families can talk about what's appropriate to share using Marco Polo Video Walkie Talkie -- even with friends. What's fun and interesting to send?

- Talk about the advantages of in-person communication versus text and video clips. Though the app allows people to see body language and hear tone of voice, how is sharing through video different from a real-life conversation?

- Discuss using this type of app in balance with other forms of communication and other activities. What are your family's limits on device use?



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Half Of Teens Say They Feel Addicted To Their Devices

- Research is still emerging about whether technology addiction
- Half of all teens reported feeling addicted to their mobile devices,
- 28 percent said their parents are addicted
- 77 percent of parents feel that their teens get distracted by their devices and don't pay attention when parent and child are together
- 44 percent of teens feel the same way about their parents.

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Data was collected from global populations; studies with people living in the United States were the most frequently cited, and studies with people living in China were the second most frequently cited. The literature search covered several primary areas:

- Behavioral and technologic addiction (e.g., theory and rhetoric, empirical observation, and experiments)
- · Media use habits (e.g., time spent with and frequency of engaging with media)
- Family approaches to media management
- Prevalence of, attitudes toward, and impacts of media multitasking
- Developmental implications of media use, particularly with respect to empathy and social well-being
- · Strategies for mitigating problematic media use









Create a Family Media & Tech Plan

If you're wondering how this all affects your kid and your family — well, there's no one-size-fits-all answer. But what's clear is that parents, teachers, and supportive adults can help kids use media and tech in healthy, productive, and responsible ways.

A healthy media diet balances three things:

- 1. What kids do
- 2. How much time they spend doing it

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3. Whether their content choices are age-appropriate.

Mixing media and tech time with other activities will help families find that happy medium. PHASE

Declare Tech-Free Zones and Times.

Devices are a huge part of screen time, and kids need support in establishing balance and setting limits. Depending on your family, these rules can be as simple as "no phones at the dinner table" or "no texting after 9 p.m."

Check the Ratings.

Choose age-appropriate, high-quality media and tech for your family. Media and technology can be especially beneficial when used to form deeper relation- ships, allow for creativity and exploration, and explore identity. Encourage your kids to be creative, responsible consumers, not just passive users.

Talk About It.

Connect with your kids and support learning by talking about what they're seeing, reading, and playing. Encourage kids to question and consider media messages to better understand the role media plays in their own lives.



Help Kids Understand the Effects of Multitasking.

Research shows that many tweens and teens think multitasking has no impact on the quality of their homework. As parents, we know that helping kids stay focused will only strengthen interpersonal skills and school performance. Encourage them to minimize distractions and manage one task at a time, shutting down social media while working online for homework or engaging in conversation.

Walk the Walk.

Lead by example by putting your own devices away while driving, at meal- times, and during family time. Parent role-modeling shows kids the behavior and values you want in your home. Kids will be more open and willing participants when the house rules apply to you, too.

Seek Expert Help If Needed.

If you observe significant negative issues with your kids' use of media and technology, (e.g., it's harming their mental health, disrupting their relation- ships, or hurting their academic performance) and you don't feel equipped to address it yourself, consult your pediatrician, a psychologist, a social worker, or another professional for advice.

