



TikTok

You might remember an old app called 'Musical.ly', well TikTok is its rebrand.

The app allows users to create and share music videos.

Some of the problems associated with Musical.ly have been solved, you *can* delete TikTok accounts and making them private is much easier.

However, there are still many things for parents to watch out for and be concerned about.

Firstly, new accounts are **public by default**.

This means that until you change the privacy settings other users can see your videos, message you directly and even use your location information.

This is easily fixed, but needs to be done so that you can control the amount of information you are sharing and with whom.

Whilst the **age limit is 13+** a separate section has been set up for younger users which allows them access to 'clean' version and more age appropriate videos.

Another benefit is that they can't comment or post their own videos.

Unfortunately bypassing these features is only a falsified birthdate away.

In closing, TikTok can be a lot of fun, but if you allow your child to use it, it will require active supervision on your part to ensure that it is a positive experience and does not expose your child to unwanted attention from people they don't know in the real world.

How can you make your child's TikTok account private?

To make your child's TikTok account private:

1. Go to your profile page and select the three-dot icon in the top-right corner
2. Select Privacy and Safety
3. There, toggle the switch for "Private Account."
4. You can also select who can send you comments and direct messages, and who can do a duet with you. Using the "Friends" setting or turning those features off completely limits contact with strangers.

TALK TO YOUR KIDS ABOUT ...

- Families can talk about family rules for [privacy and social networks](#). Talk about when it's OK to share information and what kind of information should be kept private. What are your rules around your kid using Tik Tok - including musical.ly? Can your kid share videos publicly or only with friends?
- Before downloading, discuss your family's rules around profanity and sexual references in music. What are your teens allowed to listen to? What kinds of videos can they post?
- Talk about songs that might be fun to lip-synch to and how you can get creative with that 15-second time limit for videos. Think about what kinds of movements or dance might work well within that time frame.

If you want further information you can read Common Sense Media's full review [here](#).