

IMPORTANT TO KNOW

We have had some information from the police to say that many online predators are misusing websites and Apps in an attempt to target children. One of these that has been particularly brought to our attention is [Musical.ly](#). It has been found that adults have been targeting children through the apps private messaging service. Many of these people are very clever and are posing as young boys and therefore it is imperative no children interact with anyone they do not know. There are a number of dangers posed by this app.

Dangers for Children:

- 18+ content in the song's lyrics. Swearing and adult concepts in the provided music.
- Pornography, graphic content, suicide notes.
- Musical.ly users can search for other users to view or follow near their own location.
- User generated videos can be viewed and shared onto other social media and messaging apps increasing exposure
- Bullying in comments.
- Users can publicise their messenger usernames or social media profiles on their Musical.ly profile
- Live.ly live streaming is not private even if you have the privacy settings set up.
- Using live streaming Musical.ly app Live.ly may mean larger exposure with mean comments, interacting in real time with viewers.
- Many fake user accounts, used to hijack views or set up to bully.
- Not easy to report accounts for being fakes or underage inside the app.
- Many underage accounts with large amounts of followers.
- Easy for users to create multiple accounts and hide them from their parents.

They have given us some tips in how to keep safe on apps and online.

5 ways to keep your child safe whilst using the app

1. Secure their account by making it private- this way only users that your children accept are able to view their videos. You can also block a user if needed.
2. Tell your child to never include their location when posting videos.
3. Tell your children to only accept a follower request if they can be 100% sure that they know the user.
4. The app has an age rating of 13+ so if you find that your child created an account without your permission you can email privacy@musical.ly and let them know that the account was made by someone underage. They will promptly work to delete the account.
5. You can delete all videos, remove their profile picture, change their account name and finally make the account both invisible and unrecognisable before removing it from your child's device/s.

If this poses any questions or concerns for you, please come and talk to me about them.