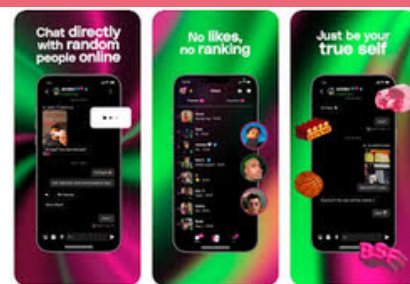


Online Safety News

May 2025



Spotlight on Wizz: What Parents Need to Know



Wizz is promoted as a “friend-finding app” for teens and young adults, but in reality, it functions more like a dating app. Users swipe through profiles to connect and chat with strangers—similar to other popular dating platforms. Rated 12+ on the App Store.

Profiles on Wizz typically show a user’s photo, first name, age, location, and interests. While it may look like a fun way to meet new people, the app has minimal safety checks and places a strong focus on connecting users based on their location. This can open the door to serious privacy concerns and potential risks, especially for younger users.

Key Concerns for Parents:

- Strangers can easily connect with your child.
- Location sharing makes it easier for users to find others nearby.
- There are few effective safeguards to prevent inappropriate contact or content.

Tip: Talk to your child about the risks of chatting with strangers online, and check their devices regularly to see which apps they’re using. Open conversations are key to helping them stay safe in the digital world.

WhatsApp has installed a new AI feature

If your child has access to WhatsApp it’s important to know that new feature has quietly appeared on WhatsApp: a built-in chatbot called Meta AI.



Key things to be aware of and talk to your child about:

- Meta is on the other end of every conversation with the AI — not a real friend or a private chat. Without clear understanding, they might disclose personal details, feelings, or information about friends and family, which could stay within Meta’s systems.
- All messages sent to Meta AI may be stored and used by Meta. This means anything your child shares could be kept, analysed, and even used to train the AI further.
- Meta advises users not to share personal, sensitive, or private information — about themselves or others — when using the AI.
- Remind them: if you wouldn’t want it written on a public wall, don’t send it to an AI.
- Regularly check WhatsApp settings and updates, as new privacy options may become available.

Essential Phone Settings Every Parent Should Know About

Did you know your child's phone has **powerful safety features built right in**—most of which aren't turned on by default?

These simple settings can help offer a bit more peace of mind and protection—whether your child is walking to school, out with friends, spending time online, or in an emergency.

1. **Emergency Contacts & Medical Info**

Make sure emergency professionals can reach you and access vital health details if your child's ever in trouble.

On iPhone: Health App > Profile > Medical ID > Edit Add allergies, meds, conditions + emergency contacts

Turn on "Show When Locked"

On Android: Settings > Safety & Emergency > Emergency Information Add emergency details and enable access

2. **Location Sharing:** Real time location helps you check in without needing to text or call, is used correctly.

On iPhone: Settings > Privacy & Security > Location Services > Share My Location, Enable My iPhone +family sharing.

On Android (Family Link) Install Google Family Link, connect devices and enable location under your child's profile.

3. **Screen Time & App Limits**



Built-in tools help manage how long your child spends on games, social media and other apps.

On iPhone: Settings > screen time > app limits - you can also set downtime for device free time

On Android: Use Digital Wellbeing > Dashboard to view and limit screen time.

Or use Family Link to pause apps and set daily limits.



4. **Content Filters and Parental Controls**

Block mature content and manage app access.

On iPhone: Settings > Screen Time > Content & Privacy Restrictions

Restrict explicit content, websites and in-app purchases

On Android: Use Family Link to approve downloads and block websites. In the Google Play Store: Settings > Parental Controls



5. **Two - Factor Authentication (2FA)**

Adds a layer of security to your child's email, social media and gaming accounts.

How to enable: Go to account settings in each app (Google, Instagram, TikTok etc)

Enable 2FA or Login Verification - Use recovery codes or an app like Authy or Google Authenticator

6. **Emergency SOS Features:** Teach your child how to quickly call for help—even with a locked phone.

On iPhone:

Press and hold side + volume buttons, or press side button 5x (based on settings).

This can call 999 and share their location.

On Android:

Settings > Safety & Emergency > Emergency SOS - You can set it to call for help, send location and record video.

