

TIPS: KIK SAFETY

Kik is an instant messaging app that is similar to texting but users have multiple options of talking with individuals, with groups and within a social networking environment. Users can also use Kik to send photos and files and send greeting cards. It combines texting with a social network.

Users are supposed to be age 13 or older. This is because it is not compliant with COPPA (Children's Online Privacy Protection Act) requirements of specific features for a website designed for children, meaning those 12 and under. Kik itself states, "Children under the age of 13 are prohibited from having a Kik account by the Kik Terms of Service." The site has no age verification.

Because of the above, **Kik does not have parental controls.**

What if your kid is on Kik and you want them off? Parents of kids who are under age 13 who have a Kik account must submit a deactivation request to Kik via email with the subject line 'Parent Inquiry'. Kik then sends the parent a deactivation request form, which can be returned to Kik for processing.