

## 7 top tips to consider before you let your kids download apps:

1. **APPROPRIATENESS:** Is the app appropriate for your child's age and/or level of maturity? Consider things like level of violence and whether others can connect virtually.  
**tip for parents:** make sure you know the password and control the account.
2. **REVIEWS:** Check out reviews and google the app to see what others have to say about it. Ask your friends and their kids to show you what an app does.
3. **PRIVACY:** How much private information is required to run the app? What information can be shared? Don't allow your children to download apps that request access to contacts or messaging.
4. **THIRD PARTY APPS:** ONLY download from your platform's official store (iTunes, Apple, Android). Third party apps can contain malware and might be able to access information such as passwords, contacts, bank details etc.
5. **SECURITY:** What security measures does the app have? DO NOT "jailbreak" an iPhone or for Android "root" the device. This might let you change your provider, but it also removes ALL layers of security build into the device. This can allow apps to access all areas within the device—messages, contacts and other private information.
6. **RENEWAL FEES:** Check whether the app contains ongoing renewal fees. Can you afford the app?
7. **FREEBIES:** Be wary of FREE apps—they usually contain a lot of advertising and may lead your child to sites to encourage further downloads (see Tip 1 above). Check with your school to see if they have a list of approved resources to help guide your decision making.

