

# Should Kids Be on TikTok?

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Whether they're watching silly pet videos or taking part in a new dance challenge, people around the world can't seem to get enough of TikTok. The app has been downloaded more than 100 million times in the U.S. alone. Users need to be at least 13 years old to get full access to TikTok. But younger kids sometimes pretend they're older to avoid that requirement.

Many people say it's OK for kids under 13 to use TikTok as long as their parents supervise what they're doing on the app. A lot of parents think TikTok can be a safe place for kids to be creative, learn new things, and connect with friends.

But others argue that TikTok has an age requirement for a reason. They point out that TikTok is filled with bad language and rude behavior, setting a poor example for kids. Many parents say the app is just another harmful way for kids to waste time on screens. Also, privacy experts have expressed concerns about how TikTok collects and stores users' personal information.

# Yes!

Kids should be allowed on TikTok as long as they use it responsibly. My mom monitors my account, and the app has many safety settings. For example, you can make your account private or turn off direct messages (DMs).

TikTok is like a big community that has something for everyone. Within the app, there are areas for different interests, called sides. If you like art, you can find tips for how to draw or paint.

TikTok also has a lot of fun challenges, like Wipe It Down. They help keep my little brother and me occupied while my mom is busy.



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# No!

Kids should not have TikTok. The content on the app is geared toward older teenagers and adults. Kids who lie about their age to join can be exposed to inappropriate language and stories that they aren't mature enough to handle. More important, they may end up connecting with people who don't have good intentions, such as cyberbullies and online predators.



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*The New York Times* reports that about one-third of TikTok's daily users in the U.S. are 14 and under. That means millions of kids may be inviting trouble into their lives each day.

## Should kids be allowed on Tik Tok?

1. Choose the best reasoning below to finish the CER paragraph.

***Kids should be allowed on Tik Tok. In the text it says, "If you like art, you can find tips for how to draw or paint ... The author also informs us that, "My mom monitors the account and the app has many safety settings."***

- A. Tik Toks are fun for everyone. You can take part in challenges and dances so they're fun.
- B. You can safely learn new things. This explains why some social media platforms, such as Tik Tok can be beneficial for learning new things and that kids should be allowed on.
- C. Kids can share with friends. You can share many different types of Tik Toks of yourself doing the things you are passionate about.

2. Finish the CER paragraph by filling in the reasoning.

**Kids should not be allowed on Tik Tok. The text states, “More importantly, they end up connecting with people such as cyber bullies and online predators.”**

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<b>reasoning</b>	No reasoning is given or the reasoning does not connect to the evidence. Restatement of evidence.	The reasoning is vaguely or briefly connected to the evidence but needs more development.	The reasoning is clearly and specifically connected to the evidence.	The reasoning is thoroughly connected to the evidence and includes additional background information.