Houseparty

What is the Houseparty app?

Houseparty app—is a group video chat platform that allows friends (and friends of friends) to chat via live video and text. Up to eight friends join the conversation, which takes place via a split-screen video feed.

Is Houseparty Safe to Use?

If you're wondering whether it's a good idea to let your child have the Houseparty app, here's a good question to ask yourself: Would you let your child bring a bunch of friends over, let each of those friends bring additional friends, and not check to see who ends up in your house?

Lock the 'house'

Each video call with Houseparty is known as a 'house', and a friend could potentially be in a call with other contacts including someone your child doesn't know.

If a 'house' is left unlocked, anyone could join the call.

To lock the call, click the padlock icon at the bottom of the screen.

Remind your child to lock every call they take part in, so users they don't know can't join.

Make their account private

Making a Houseparty account private means that every call you're in will be locked.

To do this go to settings, and switch to Private Mode.

Change location settings

Other Houseparty users can find your account by location, meaning those nearby can add you.

To turn this feature off you should:

Click the smiley face in the top left corner

Click the pink cog wheel to go to settings

Click Permissions

Uncheck the Enable Location button

Report inappropriate behaviour

If your child receives any messages or someone they don't know/don't want to speak with joins their 'house' they can report or block that person.

To do this you should:

- Click the smiley face icon in the top left corner
- Click My Friends to access your contacts list
- Find the person you want to block or report
- Click the three dots near their name
- Click block/report
- Choose which option you want to do

zoom

What is the Zoom app?

Zoom is a cloud-based video conferencing service you can use to virtually meet with others – either by video or audio-only or both, all while conducting live chats – and it lets you record those sessions to view later.

Is Safe is Zoom to Use?

If you're wondering whether it's a good idea to let your child have the Zoom app, here's a good question to ask yourself: Would you let your child bring a bunch of friends over, let each of those friends bring additional friends, and not check to see who ends up in your house?

Concern 1

Internet trolls are jumping into public Zoom calls and using the platform's screen-sharing feature to project inappropriate content and more obscene content.

Concern 2

Hackers may be able to hijack your webcam, turning your device into a spycam.,

Concern 3

The app shares your data with other companies and is a treasure trove of information for hackers.

Privacy settings

Click Room Management > Zoom Rooms. Click Account Settings. Click the Meeting tab. Navigate to the Transform all meetings to private or Hide host and meeting ID from private meetings options and verify that both settings are enabled to use both options