

## Parent Tip Tuesday-Monkey App

The App's logo sure is cute and cuddly...what's on the inside...not so much.

The Monkey app allows kids to video chat with Snapchat users all over the world. It is designed to be a chat tool that connects strangers for a 15 second introductory video call. You can then extend that conversation or carry it over to Snapchat if you want to keep talking with this stranger/new best friend.

There are quite a few red flags for parents. As always, you need to talk to your kids about appropriate behavior and safe online practices. I mean, the entire design of the app is to connect your child with a stranger...WONDERFUL. So much for the "don't talk to strangers" conversation.

Content with bullying, vulgar language and nudity is common on the Monkey app, despite their efforts to moderate that type of content. There are many reviews for Monkey where parents talk about their child being exposed to pornographic videos or requests for nude pictures within minutes of signing up.

While many of the conversations on Monkey will not be concerning, there are just too many red flags with an app that is designed to connect your child with strangers. As with many social media apps, there is no way to verify that the person is who they say they are or how old they are. Please make sure you have extensive conversations with your child if they are on Monkey and spend some time with them and have them show you the app.

Parent Tip Tuesday is a weekly series where the Parker Police Department talks about an issue involving parents and children. Topics will range from the latest apps and technology to building resiliency in your children. Our goal is to give parents five minutes' worth of information every week that is easily digestible and educate them about new issues that they or their children may face. Please comment below if there are topics that you would like to see us cover.

You can find the previous Parent Tip Tuesday content on our website:

<http://www.parkerpolice.org/2032/Parent-Tip-Tuesday>