



E-Awareness

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TikTok – which used to be called *Musical.ly*, is a social networking app that young people can use to generate and share their own short videos and lip sync to popular audio clips. The app allows users to create and upload videos, remix existing videos using in-built editing tools, and also to view and comment on videos created by other users.

What features does Tik tok have?

On TikTok users can create their own videos where they lip-sync along to popular songs and audio clips. To do this users select the song they want to use and then create their own video. Once their video is created users can then share it with their followers or all other users on the app.

In the changeover from Musical.ly to TikTok there have been some new features released, these include new creative filters that can be put on videos and a 'for you' section on the homepage where users can discover, react to and interact with other people's videos. Users also caption their videos using hashtag to help others to find their content, and also to find content that has been created by others.

On TikTok there is also the ability to livestream via [LiveMe - Live Video Chat](#), where users can directly interact with online audiences through chat and live video.

Things to be aware of

Because the app allows users to create videos using current and popular music, some of the songs contain explicit swearing, sexual content and references that may be inappropriate for younger users.

As users create their own content some videos posted in the app can contain inappropriate clothing or gestures. According to reviews online, some parents have also reported seeing videos containing sexually suggestive or even explicit material.

Users also have the ability to interact and chat to other users of the app through the comment section under videos and the private messaging function. Private messages can only be sent between users who are follow each other or are 'friends' and the messaging function can also be turned off entirely.

Parental Controls

TikTok have recently launched a new setting called 'Digital Well-Being' which allows parents to set screen time limits with the app (which is then password locked).

There is also a Restricted Mode which can help to filter out inappropriate content. By turning on restricted mode, TikTok say that the app will limit the appearance of videos that 'may not be appropriate for all audiences'. This feature also disable the user from being able to start their own live streams.

However, it is important to remember that no filter is ever 100% effective on its own and any controls should only be used if they work for you and your family.

The game's rating suggests it is appropriate for children above 12.