

BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE



November 2024

As the days grow shorter and the air a bit chillier, we are reminded of the beauty of our area and how thankful we are to call this place home. To be able to witness the change of the leaves and then the transformation of the hills is something that doesn't go unnoticed.

As Thanksgiving approaches, we look forward to the arrival of friends and family. Our loved ones are very important to us, and we do all that we can to keep them safe. We hope this issue's tips to assess the safety of current social digital applications equips each of you to keep your children and families safe online.

Do you know what yours kids are seeing?



If you are a parent, grandparent, or caregiver caring for children in your home, do you have established guidelines for monitoring their devices? Are you aware of the applications they are using and whether those apps are safe?

Determining which web apps are age-appropriate can be a daunting task, especially with the constant influx of new social applications. It can be challenging to stay informed amidst constant technology developments.

We aim to simplify this process for you. Below, we have outlined some popular apps for children, allowing you to assess their suitability for your family.

Social Media Apps

Instagram, Facebook, BeReal, Snapchat, TikTok, YouTube Shorts



Kids love staying connected with their friends and family on social media apps like Facebook, Instagram, and Snapchat. While there are some great things about social media, there are also some dangers that caregivers need to be aware of. For example, cyberbullying is a real problem on social media platforms. Caregivers should talk to their kids about online safety and make sure they know how to report any inappropriate behavior they see on social media. These apps also have features that allow messages to “disappear.” When doing a phone check, you may not even know what was sent, seen, or received with features like this in an app.

Messaging Apps

Text Messaging, WhatsApp, iMessage



Messaging apps like WhatsApp and iMessage are popular among kids for staying in touch with friends. However, these apps can also be used for cyberbullying and other inappropriate behavior. Parents should talk to their kids about responsible use of messaging apps and make sure they know how to report any problems.

Gaming Apps

Roblox, Candy Crush, Clash of Clans, Fortnite



Gaming apps are extremely popular among kids of all ages. While there are many age-appropriate and safe games out there, parents need to be aware of the dangers of some gaming apps. For example, some games may contain violence, sexual content, or in-app purchases that can add up quickly. Parents should carefully review the games their kids are playing and make sure they are appropriate for their age.

The Most Dangerous Apps for Kids

While there are many fun apps, there are some that can be the most dangerous for kids. These apps are the ones that allow for anonymous messaging and communication. These apps can be used by predators to groom and exploit children. Some of the most popular anonymous messaging apps used by kids are Kik, Whisper, and Yik Yak. Predators can pose as other kids on these apps and trick children into revealing personal information or sending them inappropriate pictures. It is important for parents to be aware of these apps and talk to their kids about online safety.

**We can help you control
the use of these apps!**



Tips for Caregivers

1. Talk to your kids about the apps they're using and why they like them.
2. Set limits on how much time your kids can spend on their devices, apps, games or specific websites.
3. Monitor your child's activity on their devices, including their app usage and web browsing history.
4. Be aware of the apps your kids are using and research their safety concerns. Block specific apps or limit time on them using our Tri-Co Control IQ app.
5. Teach your kids about cyberbullying, online predators, and other dangers associated with the internet.

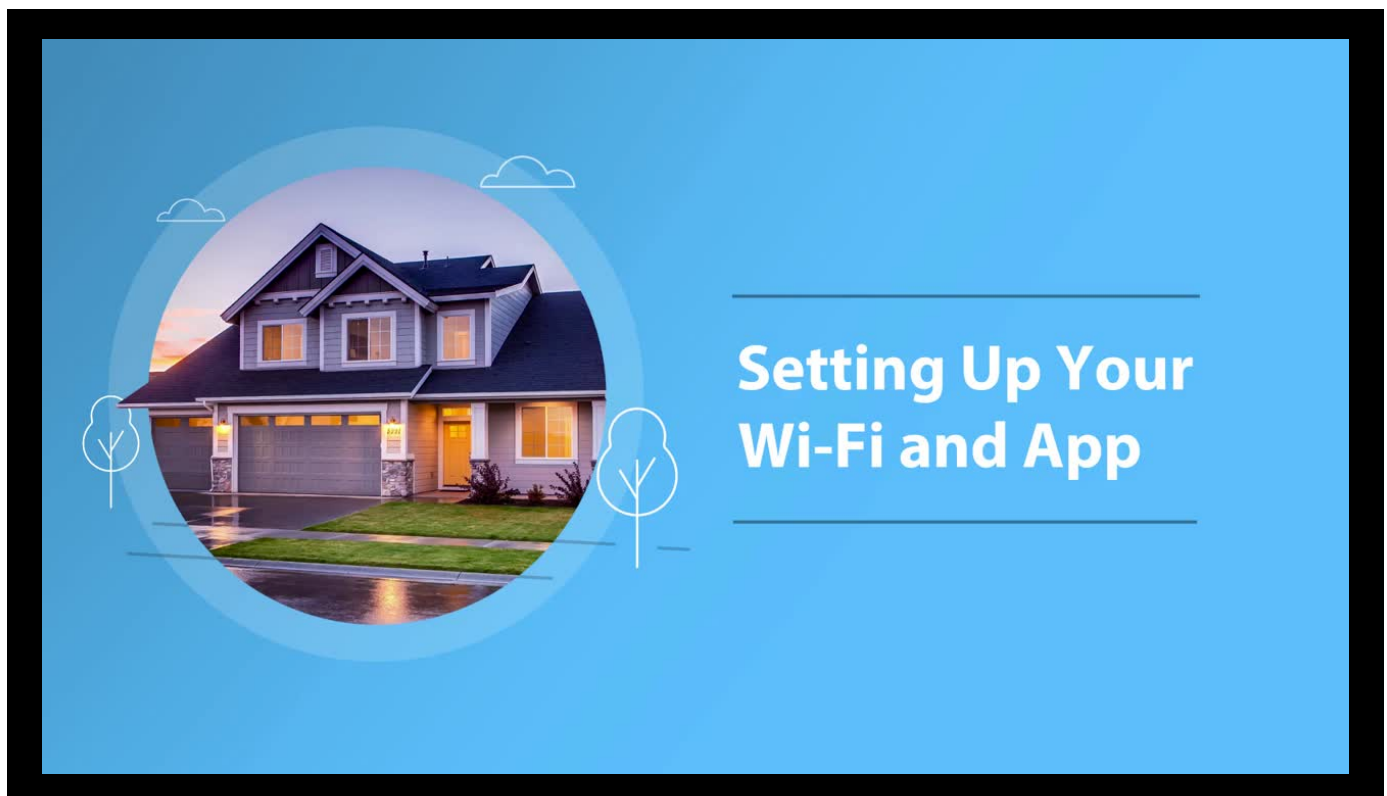
What are the next steps?

We know that this list and these apps can sound pretty scary once you realize what they can do. However, we believe that if you talk with your family, set boundaries in place, and enforce them, they can enjoy your time on their device and know that you've set rules in place to keep them safe at home.

Our app is easy to use and will allow you to take control of your home Wi-Fi experience.



To download the app, [Click Here](#)



ACTIVE AREAS

- Athens
- Austin
- Ayers Corner
- Bentley Creek
- Butler Hill
- Cammal
- Columbia
- Crossroads
- Coneville
- Elk Lick
- English Center
- Frank Lent
- Galeton
- Germanaia
- Harrison Valley
- Jackson Center
- Leidy
- Liberty
- Milan
- Morris
- Nelson
- Sullivan
- Ulysses
- Westfield

Members Connected

7,750

Total Miles of Fiber Built

2,900

**Sign-up with Tri-Co Connections today!
Contact us to schedule your installation.**

833-822-2010



www.TriCoConnections.com