

the *Carly Ryan* foundation. **APP FACTS**
MESSENGER KIDS



Messenger Kids is a new version of the popular app Messenger which allows children to be in a safe environment to connect with their friends and family. Parents are also in control of management ensuring their child can communicate positively and safely. Messenger Kids is made so the user does not need a phone number to call or text other users.

Messenger Kids is designed for kids between the ages of 6 and 12 years old. Due to US federal law users under the age of 13 cannot legally sign up for Facebook, so this version of Messenger must be set up through an adult Facebook account.

Does Messenger Kids cost anything?

Messenger Kids is free on the app store. A parent or child simply needs to search for it in the search tab on the Apple Store or Android Marketplace and click 'install' or 'download'.

Set up guide:

1. Download the Messenger Kids app to your child's phone or tablet.
2. Authenticate your child's device using your own personal Facebook login.
3. Create an account for your child by adding their name.
4. Parental controls (such as accessing data from your child's account) are available in the Parent Portal on your main Facebook app.

How to add friends?

1. Click to select your child's account
2. Click 'Choose Contacts'

You can search for people you'd like to add or select a category (example: family members, other kids, your friends), then click add. If you can't find one of your child's friends, click 'invite' to send an invitation to their parent so they can download the Messenger Kids app.

What to do if a user is bullying or harassing:

Your child has the option to mute the conversation or to block a user in an instant if they feel unsafe or threatened. Alternatively, the parent can delete the contact so the child can no longer hear from this user. You can also report the user to Facebook within the app.

Messenger Kids Tips:

- Monitor who your child connects to
- Keep an open dialogue with your child to ensure they are enjoying the application safely
- When adding friends, verify the user together to instill critical thinking skills in your child

Like any social media Messenger can be a positive social activity that keeps kids connected to their friends. Just be mindful of screen time and be aware of who they are connecting with. We always encourage open conversations around privacy and personal safety.

App Fact Sheets available from the Carly Ryan Foundation. Please email:
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carlyryanfoundation.com

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