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TEEN HOOKUP SITES
PARENTS SHOULD KNOW

DATEN & CRUSHZONE

Caution! These two free sites, Between.net and Crushzone, support each other with identical terms and the same termination registration. DatesNet claims to fame is it is the first teen dating site that is "straight & gay-friendly;" Crushzone is available in several countries & languages. You must be between 13-21 years old to use it, AND anyone over 21 is forbidden to register. Once registered, some or all of a user’s info (such as email, age, general interests, etc.) may be used by 3rd parties. Users with ads and inappropriate sexual undertones, these are not sites your child or teen should be visiting.

FUNDATECITY

Most teen dating apps and sites allow and include provocative teen photos, often posted themselves. FunDataCity is no exception. The services are available on an iOS & Android by different names, ("Dating App" and "Find My Datee"), which is somewhat disconcerting. On the Flipside, FunDataCity offers a "Teen Dating Safety" section that cautions teens to look out for stranger danger, dismiss any offers that seem too good to be true, avoid sharing their personal and online access info and more. The service also offers "TV" & "TS" (Transvestite/Transsexual) gender options. Must be 13 & agree to have the consent of parents or guardians to use the site.

TEENS.TOWN

TeensTown is very new and a service that is definitely one to keep an eye on. It appears generally safe and is on their home page, asserting their belief "that teenagers should have a safe place to enjoy online social networking experiences." However, parents should note the site is planning to introduce different ways to earn real money in a form of cryptocurrency and will even allow you to use bitcoin when filling out your profile. TeensTown promises more future "benefits" to come that include community forums, chat rooms, virtual worlds, anonymous mapping and comics section. No age restriction required.

TAFFY.CHAT

TaffyChat is a dating and friendship mobile app that takes the unique approach of putting "personality and conversation on an equal footing with physical appearance." The app does not showing clear photos of matches' faces—only a blurred photo with a catchy headline. If not until after the users have become better equated through chatting that their "true" connection—and photo— is revealed. Registration is done solely through Facebook, which requires a minimum age of 15 for signup. Of course, underage teens with Facebook accounts may decide to use it, even if they aren’t supposed to, (available in iOS only)

THE DATING GAME

Gaming is a form of pop culture on to itself. Self-proclaimed boy (and girl) nerd gamers often find it hard to meet others on generic dating sites. That’s where gamer dating sites come in. As stated in AskMen recently, “By delivering an online dating environment that is filled with members proudly flying their geek flag, these niche sites remove the stigma and allow gamers to discover matches in a positive, judgement-free zone." There are several out there ranging from GamerDating to GamerDatingLife ("Looking for Group") sites that are worth reviewing before your 18- and older-nerdy teen starts looking for online love safely online with nerd pride.

learn more about teen dating at: www.cyberwise.org/dating-apps

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