



# Twitter

## What is it?

Twitter is an online news and social networking platform that supports short messages called tweets. These messages, limited to 280 characters, can contain text, photos, videos, and external links. Users can retweet content and reply to other users. There is also a direct messaging function where private messages can be exchanged.



## What is the age requirement?

Users must be 13 years of age or older to use Twitter.

## Where can I learn more?

[help.twitter.com](https://help.twitter.com)

## Safety Features

Parents can talk to their kids about unknown followers by using options available in Twitter's Privacy and Safety settings. Users have the ability to make their account private, which makes posts visible to only approved followers. Other features require manual approval, such as photo tagging and receiving message requests. Twitter allows users to report abuse, sensitive content, and spam. If a young user feels uncomfortable about another user on Twitter, they can unfollow, report the account for misuse, or block that person from communicating with them. Muting an account removes their tweets from your timeline without blocking or unfollowing.

## 3 Things Parents Should Know

- 1) Twitter is a fast-moving social environment where people can share many different types of content. Parents should remind their children to always be mindful of others and be kind when using this platform. Parents should also watch out for signs of cyberbullying to make sure their children are not targeting others, or getting targeted themselves.
- 2) Once a user posts a tweet, they cannot make any edits to the original tweet. Users can delete the tweet after posting, but should keep in mind that before deleting, other users can still see and screenshot what was posted. Parents should discuss with their children what is appropriate to post and what is not so that their children maintain their digital reputation.
- 3) Twitter organizes the many conversations that take place on its platform with hashtags (#). This is a way for users to follow what other people are saying about a specific topic and draw a great deal of attention, especially for news. Parents should educate their children about media literacy and false news reports that can spread on social media.