

**Parent and School Alert**

**Kiss Kiss Spin the Bottle game**

Kiss Kiss is an interactive spin-the-bottle game described by the app developers as 'your new chance to fall in love and find amazing friends.' Its developers market the app as "an amazing" friendship app and a dating app that gives you a chance to meet THE ONE.

During a game, the bottle will point to a random user of the opposite sex with who you then have a chance to virtually kiss. Whether you kiss them or not is up to you.

The game has approximately 25,000,000 players worldwide, with around 3 million downloads of the app in May 2021 alone. It is available from both the Apple App Store and Google Play store.

Within the app, you can send free virtual gifts and compliments to other users, complete simple tasks to get to know people you find attractive, virtually kiss other users, and chat. Within the game, there is a group chat and a private chat to communicate with other users.

Although it is free to download the app, there are also in-app purchases that allow you to purchase virtual gifts and send them to other users.

This app is an online grooming nightmare and not recommended for anyone under the age of 18 years. It "gamifies" inappropriate conversations in chats, offering rewards and prizes for interactions with strangers.

Our investigation into the app identified that users are quick to contact other users. For example, within a 10-minute time frame, our team was directly asked to move platforms and follow more than one user on Snapchat and Instagram, was requested to send nude pictures, asked if we liked porn, was told the user was masturbating, asked if we wanted sex and more.

Regardless of what age you register, the app adjusts your age to 20 years old or above during the registration process. Kiss Kiss is marketed as a 17+ app, but the graphics are cartoonish and would seem very inviting for young teens and children. It is NOT a child's game in any way.

1.         Check with your children and their devices. Delete the app if they have it or anything similar on their device. Ban devices from the bedroom and bathroom.

2.         Stay calm and open up the conversation around the app and similar apps and why they wanted to use it (if they did) or why they shouldn't download apps like this.

3.         It's recommended that as their parent/guardian, you have some form of parental control over their phone/device to control and monitor what apps your child can download and use. Until they are old enough and wise enough to be paying for their phone or device, we don't recommend them having complete autonomy over this privilege until then.

4.         Discuss online stranger danger with your children and what is appropriate and inappropriate conversations while online and that they can come to you to discuss if anything ever makes them feel strange or uncomfortable.

5.         Ensure they know to keep private information private when engaging and playing online.

6.         Openly discuss the risks of sharing and following someone they meet online on their social media eg. Snapchat, Instagram etc.

7.         Ensure they know to never meet up with someone they know online in-person.