

# Omegle, Monkey and Chatroulette

## Parent Guide — Everything you need to know about video chatting platforms

### What are they?

Omegle, Monkey and Chatroulette are free **online video chatting** platforms that match users for **webcam-based conversations**.

They have **gained popularity through young influencers** using them to create content and meet fans. Omegle has gained traction on TikTok with the hashtag #omegle collecting approximately **five billion views**.

### How do they work?

Monkey users create profiles, but neither Omegle or Chatroulette require registration. Users simply access the platform to start chatting – with **no age verification or identity checks**.

Monkey and Chatroulette **connect people randomly across the world**, whereas Omegle can pair those with similar interests. Omegle's text chat also has a **'spy' function** where users can log on as a **hidden third party** in a text chat between two people.

All three give the option to **end the call at any time**.

### What are the risks?

There are **many risks** associated with video chatting platforms. Omegle and Chatroulette are notorious for hosting **sexual content**, despite their underage users.

Omegle has **no parental controls**, but offers a **moderated chat function** for under-18s. It's unclear how robust this is, **so your child could still be exposed** to inappropriate exchanges.

Chatroulette recently divided chats into 'Filtered', **where no sexual content is allowed**, 'Unfiltered', where participants are **asked to adhere to safe content without enforcement**, and 'Random', which comes with a warning that it **may contain adult material**. Under-18s are not allowed in the latter two. It's possible to **record screens**, so anything said or done could be saved by a user.

Monkey **shares users' locations publicly**, with **no option** to disable this.

### What can I do?

Your child may want to use these platforms after seeing their favourite influencers do so. Discuss the importance of **paying attention to the risks** associated with the platforms, and that using them could lead to unpleasant experiences.

Emphasise that they should **never give away their personal details** to someone they've only just met – no matter how friendly they seem.

Finally, let your child know that they can come to you if they have seen something that makes them feel upset or worried. If you have a problem, you can report it to [NCA-CEOP](#).