

Scuttlepad: Twitter for Kids

Categories: Crazy Start-Ups (VC Time!), Social Networking, Web Services

Tags: children, parental controls, Social network, web services



If you want to give your kids an introduction to the world of Twitter and Facebook and other social networks without letting them loose unsupervised on either of those two services, you do have options. [Scuttlepad](#) is a new social network designed for children that allows them to post status updates, share their feelings and activities with their friends, and connect with other kids.

One of the biggest features of Scuttlepad is that children can post status updates only by choosing from pre-selected words. This means that the activity of posting what you're doing or how you're feeling is also an [educational](#) exercise, teaching children about sentence construction and word choice. Additionally, Scuttlepad gets parents involved by making them approve photo uploads, friend requests, and account creations.

Scuttlepad is similar to [Togetherville](#), another social network aimed at kids. While Togetherville takes a page out of Facebook's playbook with games and virtual items you can buy with real [money](#), Scuttlepad is more like Twitter and focuses on giving children a way to connect with their friends and with other kids by sharing what they're doing and how they're feeling. The service is aimed at children aged 6-11, and is designed to be used with parental involvement.



In order to post a status update at Scuttlepad, children have to select from pre-approved word lists that are designed to both encourage good sentence construction and word choice, but also keep kids and the network clear of adult language. The folks behind Scuttlepad acknowledge that this can lead to some silly words and phrases, but state that it's more important to keep the language age-appropriate.

Scuttlepad doesn't have quite the parental involvement requirement that Togetherville has bundled in. An adult does have to approve a child's new account at Scuttlepad, but it's only via e-mail with no real identity confirmation. Over at Togetherville, a child can't sign up at all - a parent has to provide their own Facebook account, which presumably has their true identity, and then they create an account for their child. Regardless, Scuttlepad does have strong parental controls built-in, like the ability to approve [photos](#), profile updates, and friend requests.



Scuttlepad is free, and doesn't connect in any way to Twitter, Facebook, or any other social network. The entire environment children interact in is carefully managed and moderated by Scuttlepad staff to make sure it stays age-appropriate and a safe space for kids to get into social networking without parents worrying who their children are talking to on the Web.

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