

ScuttlePad: The First Social Network Just For Kids

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August 3, 2010



Hmm... could this be the next social media craze? ScuttlePad, the very first social network just for kids launched today, welcoming children ages 8-12 years old. In a world where social networking is becoming a part of our everyday lives, I guess it was just a matter of time before the kids' got their own network as well. ScuttlePad gives children a safe, fun and simple environment to build their profile and share updates with friends. With ScuttlePad, children will be able to express themselves by using guided communication and learn how to share information responsibly. Parents and teachers are already welcoming ScuttlePad into their classrooms and homes as a platform to keep kids connected *and* safe.

ScuttlePad, and its founder, Chad Perry, partners with educational, commercial, and kid-focused groups to create fun ways for kids to connect with their friends and discuss all that interests them. ScuttlePad was designed to exceed the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) guidelines.

ScuttlePad doesn't connect to networks designed for adults, and kids can't get into trouble by sharing too much or inappropriate information. Kids create status updates by clicking through pre-approved word lists to create sentences, which can result in silly statuses like, "I'm helping the radio," but users can't post anything offensive or too personal with ScuttlePad.

This network is free and sign up is simple. Either a parent or guardian must provide an email address to approve the creation of all accounts. The adult will then receive an email to approve the membership of the child and will receive all account passwords. Kids can then build their own profile based on their first name, hometown and state, upload their photo (which is then manually reviewed by ScuttlePad). Once they're a part of the ScuttlePad community, kids can connect with their friends, click through their pre-approved word lists to give status updates or comment on their friends' news feeds.

What do you think of ScuttlePad? Is this something you would allow your children to participate in?