INSTAGRAM

Instagram is a photo and video sharing app that has been an almost exclusively mobile platform. Once the user has either taken/selected a photo or video they can scroll through the editing filters and experiment with the best one for that particular image.

How does it work?

After the user has created an account they can follow other Instagram users and *'like'* or *'comment'* on their photos and videos. Instagram is owned by Facebook and accounts between the two can be linked to verify the users age and identity.

Instagram accounts are public by default, but can be set to *'private'* if the user wishes. If an account is set to public then it opens it up for any other user on Instagram to view. If the account is set to *'private'* then only the users that follow the account are able to view it. Setting an account to private allows the user to choose who follows them, which gives the user more control of who is able to view their content.

Instagram is being used by young people to share their lives with their friends. Some challenges around the use of Instagram are young people taking nude selfies and seeking attention and acceptance from strangers, bullying comments and the ability to access inappropriate photos and videos. It is important you know how to block and report inappropriate users on Instagram.

Privacy Settings

Account settings can be found by selecting the three dots on the right hand side of the top of your profile page:

○ *Scroll to 'Privacy and security'*
○ *Tap 'Account privacy'*
○ *Switch on the toggle 'Private Account'*

We would recommend turning off the location function for the camera on the users mobile device.

By doing this, it ensures that the location of where the photo was taken isn't embedded in the image. If location services are turned on for the camera then any one can drag and drop a photos geotag information into a Google search and locate exactly where the photo was taken. For most smart devices, this option can be toggled within their 'Settings' menu.

How do I block or report another user on Instagram?

To report a post:

Tap the three dots above the post
Tap Report and follow the on-screen instructions

To report a profile:

Tap the three dots at the top of the profile
Tap Report and follow the on-screen instructions

Like any social media Instagram can be a positive social activity that keeps kids connected to their friends. Just be mindful of screen time and be aware of who they are connecting with. We always encourage open conversations around privacy and personal safety.

App Fact Sheets available from the Carly Ryan Foundation. Please email: **info@carlyryanfoundation.com**