



When Is the Right Time for a Child's First Cellphone?

There's no one-size-fits-all answer. It really depends on your child and your family's unique situation. Instead of focusing on age, think about your child's maturity, how well they follow rules at home and school, and how responsible they are. Your family's lifestyle and needs also play a big role.

If your child is tech-savvy but still learning how to make good choices, it's okay to hold off and say "Not yet." That gap between skills and judgment is worth paying attention to.

Here are a few questions that might help guide your decision:

- Does your child show responsibility, like checking in when they leave the house or arriving when they say they will?
- Do they tend to misplace things like backpacks or homework? If so, a phone might be at risk, too.
- Is there a safety reason that they need to stay in touch?
- Would having easier access to friends help them socially?
- Will they stick to the limits you set for when, where and how long they can use their phone?
- Are they likely to use texting, photos, videos and apps in a kind and respectful way—not to embarrass or hurt others?



Every child is different, and you know yours best.
Trust your instincts, and don't be afraid to wait until it feels right.



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