

For Android devices (like Google Pixel or Samsung Galaxy), the system is built around an app called **Google Family Link**.

Unlike Apple, where the settings are baked into the iPhone's "Settings" app, Google uses Family Link as a "remote control" that you install on your phone to manage theirs.

1. Account Setup: The "Admin" Phase

You cannot manage an Android phone without a Google Account for yourself and a managed account for your child.

- [Create a Google Account for your child](#) – This walk-through shows you how to create an account for anyone under 13 (or the applicable age in your country) so it's supervised from day one.
- [Get started with Family Link](#) – The "Quick Start" guide for parents to link their child's device to their own.

2. Time Management: "Daily Limits" & "Downtime"

Android calls "Screen Time" settings **Daily Limits**. You can set a hard shut-off time for the day or a specific "Downtime" (bedtime).

- [Manage your child's screen time](#) – Instructions on setting total daily hours and scheduling when the phone should automatically lock.
- [How to lock or unlock your child's device](#) – A handy guide for when you need to "pause" their phone immediately for dinner or homework.

3. App Controls: Approvals & Blocklists

On Android, you can see exactly how many minutes they spend on each app and block specific ones entirely.

- [Manage your child's apps on Google Play](#) – Learn how to approve or block app downloads and set individual time limits for specific apps (e.g., 30 minutes for YouTube, but unlimited for a Calculator).
- [Set up Google Play parental controls](#) – How to restrict movies, books, and games based on maturity ratings.

4. Safety Filters: Chrome & Search

Google allows you to force "SafeSearch" and filter out adult websites across their browser.

- [Manage your child's web browsing on Chrome](#) – A guide to setting up "Try to block explicit sites" or creating a "Whitelist" of only the sites you allow.
 - [Filter searches on Google](#) – How to turn on SafeSearch so explicit results are hidden from Google Search.
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Pro-Tip for Android

If your child is using a newer device (running Android 15 or 16), you can now access **on-device parental controls** by going to **Settings > Digital Wellbeing & parental controls**. This allows you to make quick changes directly on their phone using a Parent PIN without needing to open the app on your own device.

What to do if your child wants to leave a group text that they were added to?

If your child cannot leave a group text, it is likely because the group contains a mix of iPhone and Android users, which uses older SMS/MMS technology that does not support a "leave" feature. While they may not be able to fully exit the thread, you can take several steps to stop the notifications and clear their messages.

Steps for Android Users

- **Leave RCS Groups:** If the group is using modern RCS features, tap the three dots or the group name and select **Leave group**.
- **Mute Notifications:** If you cannot leave (common in SMS groups), long-press the conversation from the main list and tap the **Mute** or **Notifications** icon (often a bell with a line through it).
- **Delete the Thread:** Long-press the group and tap the **Delete** (trash) icon. Like on iPhone, the group will reappear if a new message is sent.

Additional Solutions

- **Block Individual Numbers:** If one or two people are the main source of the issue, you can block those specific numbers to prevent their messages from reaching your child's phone.
- **Request a New Group:** If the group is among friends or family, you can ask a participant to start a **new group chat** that does not include your child.
- **Enable Spam Filtering:** Check your phone's settings to filter unknown senders. On iPhone, go to **Settings > Messages > Filter Unknown Senders**. On Android, go to **Messages Settings > Spam protection** and enable it.