

What to consider before purchasing a mobile phone

You may be considering purchasing a phone for your child in the not so distant future. We would recommend thinking about creating your own phone agreement with your child before letting them loose with the device. We have spoken with parents of older children and they overwhelmingly agree that they wished they had created an agreement at the start as there were lots of issues they had not contemplated.

All families are not the same and an agreement that suits one family in style will not suit another. For example, some are very blunt and to the point whereas others are more conversational in style. We have therefore had a look at a few available online and have put two of the links here for you to look at for yourselves.

This first one is from an awarding winning American website and is conversational in style. It does mention some elements that you, as their parent, may deem above their age and should therefore be edited out. We did still feel though that the majority of the contract was valid.

<http://www.janellburleyhofmann.com/postjournal/gregorys-iphone-contract/#.XP6ZECXTWEEd>

This second one is more precise and set out like a contract.

<https://www.common sense media.org/family-media-agreement>

You should also consider contacting your mobile phone provider and asking for adult content filters to be switched on and ensure that parent controls are switched on for your wireless network at home. Children will always be able to get around filters so ensure you are clear about what they should not access and why in your agreement.

Please do not read this and think we are encouraging you to buy your child a phone now, that is a personal choice, but we just would like you to feel prepared when you do. We hope that you find this useful.