Reasons Against Mobile Phones

Discussion Point

Should children be allowed their own mobile phone? What benefits do mobile phones come with? Am I being too strict not allowing my child to have a mobile phone?

**Mobile phones are a big part of our daily lives we use them for many things, but do we spend too much time on our devices? Many people argue about whether the youngest of our generation should be allowed to own a mobile. This discrepancy on whether kids should own a mobile phone has occurred for years now and no one really knows if it is right or wrong due to the point that it is people opinions.**

Hackers

All across the internet today phones and websites and accounts are being hacked. These hackers can sometimes steal all your personal details and have access to your files, photos and camera which means sometimes that when you turn your phone on they be able to see you even if you aren’t using camera. On average 30,000 new websites are hacked every day. These 30 000 sites are usually legitimate small businesses sites, that are unwittingly distributing malware. As you probably agree this is extremely concerning though it can be prevented from happening. For casual phone users, adhering to the basics is a great place to start when it comes to blocking simple hacking efforts:

* Never leave your phone unattended. Keeping your phone with you at all times while in a public place is the first, best rule to follow.
* Change your phone’s default passcode. Your phone likely comes with a simple, predictable default password, and those who know can use this to their advantage. Change your code to something more complex, and resist the usual "1234," "0000" and “2580” codes that are commonly used.
* Manage your Bluetooth Security. Avoid using [unprotected Bluetooth networks](https://www.webroot.com/us/en/resources/tips-articles/a-review-of-bluetooth-attacks-and-how-to-secure-mobile-workforce-devices) and turn off your Bluetooth service when you aren’t using it.
* Protect your PIN and Credit Card data. Use a protected app to store PIN numbers and credit cards, or better yet, don’t store them in your phone at all.

Inappropriate Content

A popular reason on why parents across the world believe that children of a pacific age shouldn’t have their own mobile phone is inappropriate content. For websites like TikTok, YouTube, Instagram and other apps, they are used by people of all ages this can sometimes lead to inappropriate content like swearing that is used in a video or inappropriate picture. This behaviour is allowed so it is up to you to stop it as the apps allow that content. This can lead to kids coping what they see online or setting a bad example for younger kids. An easy way to stop some of the inappropriate content is to block websites you don’t want your child to see although this won’t get rid of all that content it sill helps. You should also trust that when your child sees something inappropriate, they will turn it off and tell you.

Too much time on devices

Most people think that when children have their phone in reach they will spend too much time on it and forget about the world around them and tend to miss out on things such as exercise and communication. Children are spending an average of 23 hours a week on smartphones and other gadgets - twice as much time as they spend conversing with their parents, polling suggests the survey of 2,000 families with children below the age of 14 found that on average they were spending 3 hours 18 minutes a day on personal devices. So this is why some parents leave it until their children are older before they buy them phones. I can relate completely my mum doesn’t want me spending too much time on my devices, that’s why she put a timed lock screen on my phone, after I’ve spent 3hours on my phone the lock screen appears and I can no longer use my apps until the next day, don’t worry you can use parental access which you need a code for so that the kids don’t get in. Another thing you can still do is emergency call where you have access to your contacts. This process makes me use my device time wisely on useful things rather than YouTube and Games. Although you may think your child looses track of time when they are on devices they actually don’t they are fully aware of how long they are spending on it and you need to trust that they will come off it after being on it for too long.

Reasons for Mobile Phones

Staying In touch

Staying in touch with our loved ones is so important, especially in these tragic times where seeing your friends and family is discouraged, we rely on apps such as Face Time, WhatsApp, Messenger, Snap Chat and others. We are so lucky to have such a big variety of apps that help us stay in touch. According to a study done by UCN, an average of 12.4 billion calls around the world are made every day on these apps and majority if not all of them are made to are friends and family. If we did not have these apps during these times, we would have to meet up with people to have a conversation and possibly give each other this deadly virus, and no one wants that.

Homework

As all parents can relate with their kids asking for help with their homework but there is only so much help you can give and still some answers you may not know but when a child owns a mobile phone they have access to the internet which they can get websites from which can help with their vocabulary, math skills….(ext.) The internet is full of these types of websites and have improved so many kids and even adults IQ. Most of these apps are free and do short exercises everyday to improve your kids IQ and when they are busy doing that you could have a whole 20mins to yourself which Im sure is more than you usually get.

Emergency

In bad situations like your house being robbed or your child in danger phones can save their lives in some situations. In situations like getting the bus home from school a phone can be helpful in case they get on the wrong bus or to let a parent know of their current location. But sometimes the situation can be worse like a kidnapping, but not all bad situations involve the police. Childline get millions of calls per day. A children’s helpline conducted more than 60 counselling sessions on suicide every day last year with children as young as 10 reporting suicidal thoughts, according to the NSPCC children’s charity. I’m sure you could only imagine what could happen to these kids if they didn’t have access to a phone so a mobile phone can literally save people’s lives.

It is understandable why some parents don’t allow their children to have phones but in my opinion it all depends on the age and maturity of the child if your child is responsible and careful with their belongings then they should be allowed a phone.