

Should kids be allowed to have a cell phone?

The Power of Phones

By Jenna Heinz

Nowadays, technology makes up our society. While technology may be helpful, it can affect a person's life in both positive and negative ways. Just about all teenagers have their own phone and even some kids younger than that. Research has found that 95% of teenagers have access to a smartphone. Phones open up people's lives to all kinds of different possibilities. For some parents, they don't want their kids to have that kind of freedom and ability to see certain things until they are a little older. Other parents find reasoning to allow their children to have a phone at a younger age.

Phones are just one of the devices that kids or adults can use to get on social media, the internet, or other games and resources that aren't accessible otherwise. While other electronics such as laptops, tablets, and even TVs offer some of these same functions, a phone is more portable and for some, easier to use. Not only that, but it is more popular and what many may see as a "necessity" in their life.

Some could look at a phone as having "power." It provides resources that can not only take up your time, cure your boredom, or answer any question you may think of, but also provide a way to communicate without actually speaking to someone's face. Of course, phones are helpful in many ways but they can be damaging to your mental health, affect your communication skills, etc. Phones provide a distraction and escape from the real world and what is happening in your own life. Everyone, especially kids, need to focus on their life so they can

fully experience it. Kids are at the beginning of their life, which is the time where learning, (educationally and life experience-wise), is the most important. Time spent on phones takes away from these important things in life.

Lots of kids may want a phone, but when is the right time to give them one? Does it really come down to age? Some kids may get a phone for their birthday, as a Christmas gift, etc. Others receive it when they start driving, reach highschool, or need it as a way to communicate with their parents.

Mrs. Reed, Sandy Creek art teacher and mother of three, states, “I don’t think our kids need a cell phone until they start to drive. I feel like if you get them at such a young age it becomes a priority.”

One rule parents might have for phones is that their children will all receive a phone whenever they turn a certain age. As of now, the average age for kids to get their first smartphone is around 10 years old. Is it necessary to have a phone at such a young age or is there greater reasoning to wait?

Maturity can also have a big impact on whether or not a child is ready for a phone. A phone is a big responsibility and gives many opportunities to behave badly. This is another factor some parents take into consideration. They believe they should be able to trust that their kids can make smart choices on a phone before they get one. Either way, one thing for sure is that times have changed.

Mr. Pernicek commented on when he got his first phone, “I didn’t get a phone until my daughter started coming here. It was a bag phone.”

As you can tell, there are many factors to take into consideration before you get your child their first phone. Whether it is age, maturity, or necessity, a phone is a big moment in anyone's life. The impacts of a phone can be positive when used correctly.