



8-11
years old

Digital Safety
Basics

Mobile Phones and Your Kids

KIDS ARE MORE MOBILE THAN EVER.

- ▶ Mobile phones are the #1 form of communication for teens (Pew, 2010).
- ▶ More kids have mobile phones than ever before, including 31% of 8- to 10-year-olds, 69% of 11- to 14-year-olds and 85% of 15- to 18-year-olds (Kaiser, 2010).
- ▶ Teens text more than they talk — averaging 3,146 text messages a month, compared with 203 calls (Nielsen, 2010).
- ▶ 1 in 3 teens use their phones to browse the web (Harris Interactive, 2009).

PARENT TIPS FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KIDS

- ▶ **Ask yourself: Does he really need a phone?**
If so, consider what kind of phone will meet their needs without tempting them to go overboard with talk, texts or data. For very young children, consider simple phones that can be programmed with just a few important numbers. For older elementary school kids, you might want to choose a phone that allows for incoming and outgoing calls but not texting or instant messaging.
- ▶ **Make sure young kids understand the rules.**
Program important numbers into phones before handing them to young kids to help them identify who is calling. Tell your kids not to answer calls from numbers they don't know. Make rules for time spent talking, how phones should be used, and when phones should be off. Give phones a "bedtime," too, by setting time-of-day boundaries for use.



Stay
connected.
Stay safe.



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