



15-17
years old

Digital Safety
Basics

Secondhand Smartphones

Since the beginning of time, secondhand items have been passed down to younger generations. Today, many families pass down used electronic or mobile devices to kids when parents or older children get an upgrade. Sometimes it just makes sense, and in some cases, it's cost effective. Still, it's important to remember that these are very powerful devices that aren't necessarily designed with kids in mind.

Before handing over high-tech devices, parents should be prepared to explain and set rules for things like using social networking, online games, video chatting and location services.

Here are four tips on how to smoothly transition your old device and its new bells and whistles to teens:

- ▶ **Know what the device can do.** If something has powerful features, know that your teen will discover and want to use them. Do your research so you can talk to your kids and set limits on these capabilities.
- ▶ **Turn off or don't pay for features you don't want teens to use.** Use parental controls to lock features that you don't want your teen to access. Things like location services, downloading ability and data plans are all things your kid may not need. Then, consider unlocking features as teens prove their ability to responsibly manage them.
- ▶ **Discuss responsible ownership.** Talk about your expectations for responsible ownership, like not taking or posting embarrassing photos on social media sites, learning the importance of privacy settings or figuring out when websites or ads are malicious.
- ▶ **It's okay to keep it to yourself.** If the device has more features than your child can handle, it may be worth your while to keep it and consider a less daunting piece of equipment.

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